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LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Sixth Session)

(Vol. XXII contains Nos. 1—10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

2 n.P. (INLAND) THREE SHILLINGS (FOREIGN)

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 25th November, 1958.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Air-conditioning of Government Buildings

*213. **Shri J. B. S. Bist:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have taken a decision not to air-condition newly constructed office buildings in New Delhi and other places in view of foreign exchange involved in buying the equipments, and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to provide air-coolers in rooms of officers and the total expenditure involved in it?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No Only the installation of centralised air-conditioning plants, for which the new buildings are designed has been deferred because of shortage of foreign exchange.

(b) Small air-conditioning units, not involving foreign exchange, have been provided in the rooms of some officers in the office buildings on King Edward Road, Queen Victoria Road and Hardinge Avenue, New Delhi at a cost of about Rs 9,59,000/-.

Shri J. B. S. Bist: In regard to the answer to part (b) of the question, may I know why this discrimination is being made?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: These buildings, on the Queen Victoria Road, King Edward Road and Hardinge Avenue have been built on austerity pattern with very thin walls and the height of the rooms is also very low, with the result that it is really impossible to carry on with work in these rooms. These buildings were so designed that they would be provided with air-conditioning facilities but because of the scarcity of foreign exchange and difficulties of finance, we are not putting the whole building under the air-conditioning system, and only some senior officers have been provided with air-conditioners.

Shri J. B. S. Bist: Are we to understand that it is because of the low roofing that this discrimination has been made?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Normally speaking, I should think the climate of Delhi requires that every office should be provided with air-conditioning

Shri Tyagi: Are the Government aware that for the last 100 years or more, when the British who were accustomed to cool climate were here, no building in Delhi was air-conditioned?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Firstly, in those days, the Government used to move out during summer months to Simla and secondly, air-conditioning was not perfected in those days.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : अभी मन्त्री जी ने कहा कि इस सम्बन्ध मे सिर्फ ऐसी ही सामग्री को मंगाया जा रहा है जिसमें कि हमको विदेशी मुद्रा की अड़चन न पड़े । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो ६ लाख रु० की सामग्री मंगाई गई वह विदेशों में से मंगाई गई है या इसी देश में तैयार की गई है ।

Shri Anil K. Chanda: In my answer I have said that no foreign exchange was involved; because of this we have been taking recourse to small air-conditioning units of indigenous manufacture.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the fact that generally speaking office and residential accommodation is air-conditioned in many places while even operating theatres in hospitals are not, do we have any system of priority in regard to the allotment of air-conditioning apparatus and, if so, how does that system of priority operate?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: That does not concern WHS Ministry. If a private cinema house wants to have the building equipped with air-conditioning plant, it is for the cinema house to buy the thing and secure the foreign exchange.

Some Hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. The question was that even hospitals do not have the equipment.

Shri Tangamani: Not cinema theatres.

The *Minister of Industry* (Shri Manubhai Shah): I may say that it is the policy of the Government to give priority to hospitals and also for cold storage purposes in relation to vegetables, fruits etc., and least priority to provide individual refrigeration apparatus.

Shri Prabhat Kar: It has been said that these buildings were constructed on austerity pattern. May I know how much money was saved in raising such buildings and how it compares with the expenditure on air-conditioning?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I could not give a detailed answer, but from the very look of the buildings, it would be seen that whereas formerly, to a certain height, there used to be one or two storeys, we are now putting up buildings with four or five storeys. There must be considerable saving in construction.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: The hon. Minister of Industry said that the policy of the Government is to give priority to hospital theatres. May we know whether the Government will consider that in Delhi itself there are many operation theatres which are not air-conditioned and therefore, before air-conditioning is done in other places these theatres will be given air-conditioning units?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: That suggestion can be made to the Health Ministry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have said it is a suggestion for action.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the total amount spent on air-conditioning Government buildings in Delhi during 1956-57 and 1957-58?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have not got all the details with me, but so far as the office buildings on King Edward Road, Queen Victoria Road and Hardinge Avenue are concerned,—these are new offices—we have spent a little over Rs. 9,59,000, as I said in the answer.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : यह जो ९ लाख रु० की सामग्री मंगाई गई है, उस के बारे में मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नही मिला था कि वह बाहर से मंगाई गई है या इसी देश में तैयार हुई है ?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: These are new air-conditioning units which are available in India itself. In my answer I have said that no foreign exchange was involved. There are several companies in India such as Sur Refrigerators, Calcutta and Voltas in Bombay who produce air-conditioning units.

Some Hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question. Air-conditioning is not wanted during this season!

Supply of Iron Ore to Italy

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*214. **Shri V. C. Shukla:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bahadur Singh:
Shri Vajpayee:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 749 on the 1st September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the examination of the proposal from Italy to buy iron ore on long term basis from the west coast has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the board details of the decision taken thereon?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Not, yet.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

Shri V. C. Shukla: May I know whether only low-grade ore is being considered to be exported through the State Trading Corporation under this agreement?

Shri Kanungo: There is no agreement yet. It is only a sort of exploratory talks which have been held, because the project involves heavy capital investment in the form of railways and port development

Shri V. C. Shukla: May we know if ore of both grades will be taken up?

Shri Kanungo: Both grades, because the continental steel mills will use a large quantity of high-grade ore

11.06 hrs.

[Mr Speaker *in the Chair*]

Shri V. C. Shukla: Is it a fact that the expert committee appointed by the Government strongly advised against the export of ore with 65 per cent. ferrous content and that the Government have entered upon an agreement to export two million tons of iron ore with 65 per cent. content every year against the advice of this expert committee?

Shri Kanungo: I am not aware of any expert committee having given advice on this,—at least not to the Government. But, in any case, the export of high-grade ore has been a traditional line of export for nearly half a century.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether there is any fresh proposal to buy iron ore on normal long-term basis?

Shri Kanungo: We have got a long-term contract with Japan for more than five years. This is a proposal which has been considered. There is no contract yet.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether Italy has offered some loan on deferred payment basis for renovating some intermediate port on the west coast for supply of iron ore?

Shri Kanungo: There is no offer as yet. As I have said earlier, there have been exploratory talks for the development of west coast ports so that the continental buyers may obtain a certain amount of iron ore.

Shri V. C. Shukla: May I know which ports on the west coast are under consideration of the Government for development, for the purpose of exporting this ore?

Shri Kanungo: Mangalore, Honavar, Karwar and some other intermediate ports, but it will all depend upon the hinterland and communications as they emerge out of the discussions.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Is it a fact that an Italian firm has offered to improve the Mangalore port and also help in regard to the Hassan-Mangalore railway project in order to facilitate the export of low-grade iron ore from that port?

Shri Kanungo: In reply to a previous supplementary question I have said that there has been no offer

Shri Achar: May I know what is the nature of the iron ore that would be available for export? It was suggested that it would be low-grade. Is it low-grade?

Shri Kanungo: Yes, because the low-grade ore is at present shipped through Goa. In that belt Hassan—Mysore, you get ore of high grade as well as low grade between 53 and 65

Strontium-90

*215. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1073 on the 10th March, 1958 and state the result of sample survey undertaken to find out the concentration of the radioactive fall-out (Strontium-90) in the bone structure of the population in the country?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): Accurate methods for the determination of Strontium-90 content in the human bone have only just been developed and regular work on the analysis of samples will commence shortly

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if it has been found as to what is the effect of the test explosions which have occurred during 1957-58 on the population?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Considering the test explosions during the years 1957 and 1958, the present level may not be more than 2 to 3 units in the region of the highest fall-out. Since India is not in the region of the highest fall-out, the level in this country should be much lower

Shri V. C. Shukla: Are the Government aware that deer-antlers have been found to have the best record of radio-active strontium? Such researches are being done by the United States Atomic Energy Commission. Are we also going to undertake research of this radio-active strontium found in deer-antlers?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I can only say that the Trombay establishment has now perfected methods for the determination of strontium-90 in the human bone. As I said, regular work on the analysis of the samples will commence within the next few months.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how long it will take for the Commission to complete this work and whether the population will be educated with regard to its effects?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We are beginning this work within the next two or three months. I cannot say how long it will take for us to complete the work.

Shri Bose: May I know whether this fall-out is accumulating in the air or is dissolved in the atmosphere like other volatile gases?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The chemical behaviour of strontium-90 is very similar to that of calcium. Strontium 90 concentrates on the human bone just as calcium does and it settles on plants, grass and leaves. These are eaten by animals and strontium enters into the human bone through the medium of milk

Gwadur Enclave

*216. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Shri Sanganna:
Pt. D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Wodeyar:
Shri Agadi:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in Gwadur enclave which has ceded to Pakistan;

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect the commercial and citizenship rights of Indians there; and

(c) whether any representative of Indian Government visited Gwadur after the change-over to see the conditions of Indians?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) 275.

(b) and (c). No special difficulties have arisen for the Indian community immediately on the take over of the territory by Pakistan. A First Secretary in the Indian High Commission at Karachi accompanied by the Indian Consul at Muscat visited Gwadur after the change over Their report is under consideration

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know what is the Government of India's reaction to this change-over and whether it has any effect on smuggling and other matters. in which we are interested?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We sent these officers and we are studying their report. I cannot at the present moment give any definite opinion on behalf of the Government.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether any negotiation with India was carried out before the territory ceded to Pakistan and whether we knew about it before this change came over?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: There was no negotiation whatsoever

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether any discrimination is being shown against the Indian population and whether the Government has ascertained it or not?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I said there is no discrimination whatsoever We sent our officers there and they have come back. As far as we know, there is no discrimination

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether it is a fact that a western power granted a huge amount of aid to Pakistan to purchase this enclave, if so the name of the country, and whether this dealing was within the knowlege of the Government of India?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We have no information with regard to this point

Shri Tyagi: May I know what has happened to the 275 Indians living in this area, whether they have also been handed over or they are still living in this area as Indian citizens?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: They are still living in this area?

Shri Tyagi: Are they still Indian citizens or have they become Pakistani citizens.

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: They have become Pakistani citizens, but I cannot vouch for it

Shri Tyagi: Was their consent obtained for the purpose of changing over their citizenship from Indian to Pakistani?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I require notice

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether Government propose to provide the Indian nationals there, in case they want to migrate to this country, with relief and rehabilitation facilities?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We are studying the report

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether any notes have been exchanged between the Governments of India and Pakistan in this respect and if so, what is their nature?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: No notes have been exchanged between these two Governments

Shri Wodeyar: May I know whether it is a fact that Pakistani merchants in Karachi have gone to Gwadur enclave to curb the popularity of Indian goods and what steps have the Government of Pakistan taken to infuse confidence in minorities like Indians in the enclave?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We are not aware of Pakistani merchants going there.

Shri Tyagi: I am anxious to know the law under which those citizens of India have been transferred I can understand the territory being transferred, but what about the Indian citizens?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: As I have said, the report which has been submitted by the two officers is under consideration. We will examine all these matters while considering the report much.

Shri Tyagi: I can understand territory being transferred, but could citizens of India be bartered away?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: They have settled down there.

Shri Ranga: Was any effort made to ascertain the legal position regarding the status of our citizens? Was the Law Ministry consulted?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): They are Indian merchants doing business there and they will be governed by the Indian citizenship law. If they are Indian citizens, they remain Indian citizens.

Shri Tyagi: The hon. Deputy Minister says "if". It means betrayal of the ignorance of the Ministry whether they are Indian citizens or not.

Mr. Speaker: Last time when the hon. Prime Minister made the statement, Mr. Tyagi raised the same point whether it is legal and constitutional or not and the Prime Minister said, he is looking into this matter.

Sardar Hukam Singh: That was about the territory.

Shri Tyagi: That was about the territory; here we are raising the question of citizenship.

Mr. Speaker: The legal difficulty with respect to territory continues with respect to citizens also. The Question Hour is not meant for eliciting opinion on legal matters.

Shri Hem Barua: I want to make a submission; it is not about the legal matter.

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed a number of questions. Does he want to make submission to me?

Shri Hem Barua: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: It cannot be during the Question Hour, then.

Film Unit

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*217. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri Barman:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) how far the proposal to set up a Film Unit exclusively engaged on producing films covering various aspects of the Labour problems has proceeded:

(b) how much of the expenditure to be incurred for the purpose will be borne by the Ministry of Labour and Employment and by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and

(c) whether a Committee has been set up to expedite the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) The proposal has been dropped due to shortage of foreign exchange to import raw films.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how many films have been produced?

Shri L. N. Mishra: About ten films have been produced. Out of them, two have been released recently.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether some collieries have produced such films for show at their own cost?

Shri L. N. Mishra: I am not aware

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: If only two films have been released, what about the other films?

Shri L. N. Mishra: They will also be released.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know whether Government has introduced the audio-visual method in any labour areas? If so, how far has this method succeeded in removing illiteracy of the labour population?

Shri L. N. Mishra: We had a scheme for audio-visual education by producing 100 films. But we could not proceed with it because of shortage of foreign exchange.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether these two films will be shown at the school which is now training the future administrators in Bombay and whether they will continue to be shown in other centres which are going to be set up later?

Shri L. N. Mishra: They will be shown in all labour areas, as far as possible. If possible, they will be shown at the training centre, Bombay. also

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether Government propose to offer any financial aid to those labour unions that are independently producing films, as INTUC is doing in Assam. depicting the tea plantations?

Shri L. N. Mishra: That is a suggestion for action.

Aid to Bhutan

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*218. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri V. C. Shukla:
Shri Supakar:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri B. C. Prodhan:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of financial and other assistance given to Bhutan during the Second Plan period so far;

(b) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Bhutan offered to help in the execution of development works etc. in that State;

(c) if so, the precise nature of help offered; and

(d) whether any formal request has been received from Bhutan in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Apart from the annual subsidy of Rs. 5 lakhs given to Bhutan each year under the Treaty of 1949, the extent of financial and other assistance is decided on a year to year basis. During the years 1956 and 1957 assistance amounting to Rs. 3,22,800 and Rs 2,45,000 respectively was given to Bhutan to cover expenditure on specific items like the supply of hospital equipment, cement, steel etc

During the current year, a further sum of Rs. 3,60,000 has already been allocated for the supply of equipment, construction materials etc. to Bhutan. It is also proposed to make available a loan of nearly 2·20 lakhs for the establishment of an orange crushing factory.

(b) Generally, yes.

(c) Bhutan was generally assured that should she so desire, India would like to help financially as well as in personnel for the fulfilment of her development plans.

(d) Not so far.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether there are any other development schemes at present under consideration by the Government of India for the development of this territory?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: These are the development schemes suggested by the Bhutan Government. We only give them financial assistance and personnel as and when required. We do not suggest any development schemes to the Bhutan Government.

Shri Hem Barua. May I know whether the proposal to build an all-weather road connecting Bhutan with Rangiya in Assam was discussed by the Prime Minister with the Maharaja there and, if so, what is the outcome of that discussion?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. This was discussed by the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Bhutan

Shri Hem Barua What was the conclusion?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon. I think it is for the Bhutan Government to take up the matter with our government and settle it

Shri V C Shukla May I know whether it is a fact that after the Treaty of 1949 our relations with Bhutan were not so friendly and these economic aids are to restore our friendly relations with Bhutan

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon We have no information about the unfriendly relations between us and Bhutan

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether Bhutan is not very friendly to us?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon We are always very friendly

Shri Muhammed Elias May I know the terms and conditions under which these financial help is given?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon· There are no conditions

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur· May I know whether any other country has gone to the assistance of Bhutan for its development?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon We have no information

Unsold Cloth

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*219 { **Shri Tangamani.**
Shri S M Banerjee

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the answer given to **Starred Question No 29** on the 11th August, 1958 and state·

(a) to what extent the stock of unsold cloth has been reduced; and

(b) the further steps taken to expedite disposal of this stock?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [*See* Appendix II annexure No 1]

Shri Tangamani From the statement I find that in November this year the stock is less by 38,000 bales when compared to November of last year Does it mean that the crisis in the textile industry no longer exists?

Shri Kanungo That is a matter of opinion The effect of the steps which we are taking are coming into play

Shri Tangamani What is the average monthly production of cloth by the Indian textile mills

Shri Kanungo It is roughly 4 50 000 bales

Shri S M Banerjee May I know whether a major portion of the unsold stock is of the medium and coarse variety and if so what steps are being taken to export a portion of the unsold stocks to the Asian countries?

Shri Kanungo. Obviously the bulk of the stock must be medium and coarse, because more than 70 per cent of the total production is medium and coarse cloth As for export incentives, the effect of the notifications issued in the first week of this month must be awaited

Shri Rameshwar Tantia. In spite of the fact that Government have given reductions in excise and other concessions the quantity of unsold stocks has not gone down In view of this, may I know whether Government will consider the question of reducing the production just as in the jute mills?

Shri Kanungo: As the figures will show, the stocks are showing a downward trend, and certain steps have been taken for giving incentives for export. No other steps are in contemplation at the present moment.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it true that because of the stock of unsold cloth the production of cloth has been going down month by month for the last few months? And if there is any reduction in stock, is it due to the reduction in production or higher sale of accumulated cloth?

Shri Kanungo: As the hon. Member will appreciate, the period from July to November is usually a slack season, and movements start somewhere after Diwali

Shri A. C Guha: My question was about production

Shri Kanungo: I am coming to that About the production figures, they are not exactly going up. But they are not going down very much compared with previous years.

Shri C. D. Pande: In view of the fa ' that there has been a general shortfall in the production as well as in the export of cotton textiles, will the Government give more consideration to the fact that according to our Plan we have to make available to the people 18 yards per *capita*. Now it has come down to 15 yards

Shri Kanungo: We hope that by the end of the Plan period the consumption will be 17·5 yards

Shri A. C. Guha: May I ask the hon. Minister to refer to the Reserve Bank Report in which it is stated that the production of cloth is going down since March, every month, when compared to last year's production?

Shri Kanungo: The figures will show a certain amount of reduction. But it is nothing unusual.

Shri A. C. Guha: Considerable reduction has been effected

Shri Tyagi: As it is a matter of great concern to the whole nation that we are losing our markets abroad, may I know if the Ministry made any attempts to take the industry into confidence and to invite their suggestions as to how they can establish fresh markets?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): As regards accumulation, it is true that there has been accumulation of cloth during the last one year. But the accumulation is not going up. I have seen some figures and I am still examining them, and those figures go to show that the production has not actually gone down The mills have delivered their stocks to the market and the delivered quantity is not lower if not actually higher than what it was last year. But, that figure has to be verified. If more cloth has been consumed during this year and more cloth has been put in the market, it shows that production has not gone down much. There are other figures which are collected by other bodies. These figures have to be verified. In fact, I placed these figures before the Textile Advisory Board in Bombay the other day and the industrialists had nothing to say about these figures. This should not cause us much concern As regards exports, of course, still steps have to be taken to step up exports. But, I must say that the Government has done what it could. Excise duty has been reduced. Certain incentives have been given We have provided other facilities. It is now for the industry to show some initiative and courage Recently, the other day, in Bombay, the Textile Advisory Board has appointed a small Committee, two members from the industry and the Textile Commission to discuss with the Textile Federation what steps they should take in order to clear the stock which is lying there for a few months.

Shri Tangamani: In the statement we find that the November stock is 395,000 bales. Does it represent the stock after Deepavali, that is, the 10th of November, or before the Deepavali?

Shri Kanungo: These are before the Deepavali movement.

Central Implementation and Evaluation Committee

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*220. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Damani:
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Implementation and Evaluation Committee held its meeting in September, 1958; and

(b) if so, the important subjects discussed and decisions taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(i) Workers' and employers' organisations should take early steps to set up a machinery to screen cases before it is finally decided to take them up to higher courts.

(ii) As regards appeals against industrial awards and agreements pending in courts, Central Government and the State Governments, in their respective spheres, might explore the possibility of bringing the parties together with a view to settling disputes out of courts.

(iii) The question of associating neutral auditors as assessors with the industrial tribunals so as to provide them with expert advice on accounting matters should be considered

(iv) As the Code was formally ratified at the sixteenth session of the Indian Labour Conference held at Nainital in May, 1958, it should be deemed to have come into effect from June 1, 1958.

(v) A tripartite body comprising nominees of Government and organisations representing employers and employees should conduct an on-the-spot study of the Calcutta tram workers' strike under the Code of Discipline.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know the number of awards and agreements discussed in this particular committee and what steps have been taken to see that the employers accept them?

Shri Abid Ali: I did not hear the question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question is whether the agreement or award is being implemented. My information is that the employers have not accepted many awards and agreements. May I know what steps have been taken to see that they are implemented.

Shri Abid Ali: To persuade them and take legal action wherever necessary.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The Committee decided that the Calcutta Tramways strike should be studied by a tripartite committee. May I know whether that committee has been appointed and if so whether it has made an on-the-spot enquiry and submitted a report?

Shri Abid Ali: No. On-the-spot enquiry has not yet been made. A committee is being formed. Preliminary data has been collected by the officer concerned. It is expected that during the next month, this work will be completed.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know how many breaches of awards have been referred to this committee?

Shri Abid Ali: I do not think any award has been referred to this committee.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Breaches of implementation.

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): At the last meeting of the committee, the Ministry furnished to them information—very extensive information—regarding the situation in this respect, that is, various awards and breaches which were referred to this Evaluation department, and all that information was supplied to this committee.

Shri Tangamani: This Nainital Code comes into effect from 1-6-1958. The Code states that taking to litigation will constitute a breach. May I know whether this Evalution committee considered those employers who have taken the awards to the tribunals and the High Courts and the Supreme Court after the 1st June as committing breach of the Nainital Code?

Shri Nanda: It is not that every reference by an employer to a High Court or the Supreme Court constitutes by itself a violation. These employers' organisations have been asked to set up screening committees so that only very substantial cases could go to the courts. In such cases in which reference could be avoided, we may try to avoid.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: May I know whether the Committee has received any report from the Madras State Government regarding the failure to persuade, as the hon. Minister put it, the employers to implement recent awards?

Shri Nanda: I do not remember any individual case. I have not seen any report myself.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if the Government has considered any proposal to see that awards are given greater effect to than hitherto?

Shri Nanda: That is being done from day to day. The workers' organisations have been asked to inform the State machinery for this purpose and the Central Government and day to day action is taken in this matter.

Shri D. C. Sharma: In the first para of the statement laid on the Table of the House, I find something about screening committees. May I know how many such screening committees have been formed and whether the Labour Ministry has received any intimation about it?

Shri Nanda: One of the Central organisation of employers has given information that they have set up such a committee. We have not yet received information from the others.

Shri K. N. Pandey: From information it appears that most of the awards have not been implemented simply because of the fact that appeals have been filed to the Supreme Court against the same. Taking into consideration this fact, does the Ministry think of taking such steps so that this tendency may be discouraged because this is delaying tactics on the part of the employers?

Shri Nanda: Answer has been given. This step has been taken now of having some screening of such cases by these bodies. Also the Government may intervene and try to bring parties together and see if the matter can be resolved by mutual discussion. This is the step that has been taken.

Shri Hem Barua: So far as the enquiry into the Calcutta Tramway strike is concerned, may I know whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government is opposing any enquiry into the strike whatsoever and if so, is that the reason for delaying the instituting of the enquiry?

Shri Nanda: No, to both the parts of the question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the State Governments have set up Evaluation committees and if so which States?

Shri Nanda: Practically all the States, I believe, have done that. Perhaps there may be one or two States which may not have yet completed this arrangement. I expect that every one is going to do that.

Shri Tangamani: The Sixteenth Indian Labour Conference decisions constitute the Nainital Code. May I know when the Government propose to publish the decisions of the 16th Indian Labour Conference as the A.I.T.U.C has done?

Shri Nanda: These proceedings—a summary of the record is issued to the various bodies concerned. The decisions taken are released to the press.

Manufacture of Fertilizers at Trombay

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*222. { **Pandit D N. Tiwary:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state

(a) whether any scheme has been finalised to manufacture nitrogenous fertilizers from the oil refinery gases at Trombay,

(b) if so, the probable quantity of fertilizers to be produced from the gases at Trombay, and

(c) when the plant for manufacturing fertilizers from gases at Trombay will be set up?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No, Sir A final decision on the scheme will be taken after receipt and examination of the report of a Technical Committee This Committee has been set up to determine the types of fertilizers that should be produced at Trombay on the basis of a comparative study of the economics of the various alternative processes for the different types The Committee's report is expected to be received early next month.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Pandit D N Tiwary: May I know whether any estimate has been made of the cost which it will involve?

Shri Manubhai Shah: About Rs 25 crores

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the capacity of production has been estimated?

Shri Manubhai Shah: About 3,75,000 tons per annum provided we produce ammonium sulphate. If it is others, it will be 75,000 tons of nitrogen.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: As there is acute shortage of fertilisers in the country, may I know whether the Government will consider a plant for the Assam Oil Co., because there is a big need for fertilisers in the tea gardens?

Shri Manubhai Shah: It is also under consideration to utilise the Assam gas for fertilisers

Shri Dasappa: May I know who are the experts that are being consulted? Are they Indians or foreign experts?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Both There are several experts When the project will be decided upon, there will be tenders Several parties will be tendering and then the contract will be settled

Shri Dasappa: Who are the experts?

Shri Manubhai Shah: For the present, Indian experts are there—people who are connected with the Fertiliser factory in the public sector in the Government of India

सेठ गोविन्द दास इस फैक्ट्री के बनने के बाद क्या और कही भी इस प्रकार की फैक्टरिया बनाने की योजना है और अगर है तो कहा कहा वे स्थापित की जायेगी ? साथ ही हम को जितने फरटिलाइजर की आवश्यकता है वह हमारे ही देश में कब तक पूरी हो सकेगी ?

श्री मनु भाई शाह . जैसा कि हाउस को पता है, जहा तक फरटिलाइजर्स का ताल्लुक है गवर्नमेंट ने उसको बहुत ज्यादा प्रायोरिटी दी है और हमारे सैकिण्ड फाइव ईयर प्लान का जो लक्षांक है उसको पूरा करने की कोशिश की जा रही है और १९६१ में दो मिलियन

टन अमोनियम सल्फेट के रूप में पैदा होगा। इसके अलावा अब भी कोई खानगी क्षेत्र में इस काम के लिए प्रोपोजल्स आती है उन पर अच्छी तरह से विचार किया जाता है और जो अच्छी स्कीमें होंगी उनको मंजूर भी किया जाएगा। ये सब अलग अलग प्रदेशों में हो सकती हैं।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : यह जो फरटिलाइजर पैदा होगा और सिंदरी का जो फरटिलाइजर है इन दोनों की कीमत में क्या फर्क होगा और किस कीमत पर इसको उपलब्ध किया जाएगा?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : हर एक फैक्टरी के उत्पादन का जो खर्चा होता है वह अलग अलग होता है। वहां किस किस्म का काम होता है क्या रा मैटीरियल इस्तेमाल किया जाता है किस किस्म का प्लांट लगाया जाता है इन सब चीजों पर जो औसत खर्चा होता है वह निर्भर करता है। यह खर्चा इतना होगा जो कि अधिक नहीं होगा और हमारे लिये फायदेमन्द होगा।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या कीमत पड़ेगी क्या इसका कोई अन्दाजा लगाया गया है?

श्री मनुभाई शाह : जब तक प्लांट नहीं लगेगा तब तक अंदाजा नहीं लगाया जा सकता है। प्लांट लगेगा, कितनी कैपीटल कास्ट होगी, क्या उत्पादन शक्ति होगी, इत्यादि सब बातों का पता लगने के बाद ही कीमत का कोई अंदाजा लग सकता है।

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether, since the Government announced that they would consider favourably the installation of a fertiliser factory in the private sector any private party has approached the Government for licence?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Yes Sir Several of them

Shri Tyagi: Has the Government examined the feasibility of setting up smaller fertiliser plants in place of the bigger units?

Shri Manubhai Shah: That is a very right question In a country so big as ours, we are not tying ourselves down to only large capacities Therefore, exploratory talks are going ahead already for seeing that medium and small size plants are also established, but it cannot be said with certainty where and how many will come up

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether there is any foreign participation in this project, and if so, what will be the percentage allotted to the foreign participants?

Shri Manubhai Shah: As I have already pointed out in the main answer, the matter is under consideration as to what capacity will be established and what types of fertilisers will be produced Then will follow the question of participation or otherwise Usually there is only technical collaboration on deferred payment terms

Shri P C Borooah: May I know the earliest time by which the Assam fertiliser factory is likely to be established?

Shri Manubhai Shah On the present indication, the Assam factory, if it materialises, should not take more than three years

U N Map

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226 { Shri H N Mukerjee
Shri Muhammed Elias

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 26, dated the 11th August, 1958 and state what has come out of our discussion with the U N Secretariat in regard to the wrong delineation of Kashmir's position on a U N map?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Our Permanent Representative in New York has repeatedly taken up the subject with the U.N. Secretariat. Copies of recent correspondence are placed on the Table of the House.[*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 2]. The latest views of the U.N. Secretariat are not acceptable to us and we are considering what further action is possible.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The correspondence laid on the Table of the House relates to a period of about ten months, from January to October this year. I want to know why it is that the last letter of the Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General of the United Nations dated 10th October, 1958, purporting that the status of Jammu and Kashmir is not yet determined and therefore the delienation in the U.N. map shall remain as it is, has not been replied to, and I also want to know what steps have been taken since our last letter in August, 1958.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: All the correspondence that has taken place between us and the U.N. Secretariat is placed on the Table of the House. I have nothing more to add

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In the letter of our permanent representative, Mr. Arthur Lal, dated the 11th August, 1958, he has said that various misrepresentations of India's position both regarding Kashmir and other matters, in media put out by the Information Department of the United Nations, have been continued; and he says also that we are protesting very strongly, but this is the last letter that we have written In October they say they will not change the wrong delienation of the position of Jammu and Kashmir in the U.N. map. It is a very serious situation. What steps have we taken, and if we have not taken any steps, why is it that our supineness continues?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: In the latter part of the answer I have stated that the latest views of the U.N Secretariat are not acceptable and we are considering what further action is possible.

Shri Muhammed Elias: It seems that it is a deliberate anti-Indian activity of the U.N. Secretariat. May I know whether the Government is thinking of a protest to change this anti-Indian activity in the U.N. Secretariat which is jeopardising our interest?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It has been stated in the correspondence The U.N. has no politics and therefore it is not anti-Indian or pro-Pakistani—that is the stand taken by the U.N Secretariat.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I wish to know from the hon. Deputy Minister the nature of our representation in the U.N. Secretariat and the possibility or otherwise of their being able to check from inside the Secretariat this kind of obviously anti-Indian activity

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: This question needs some notice for me to enquire into the nature of our representation in the U N. Secretariat.

Shri Joachim Alva: When did the U N. start fiddling with the map of India? Was it after Mr Bokari was made the Assistant Secretary-General at the U.N. in charge of information, an appointment against which we strongly protested?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I do not want to comment anything about the insinuation, but I would like to point out that this particular map was published on 24th October, 1957 for the United Nations Day in the Form of a school leaflet.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether it was after or before Mr. Bokari's appointment.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Yes, he is still there. It has been after the appointment of Mr. Bokari.

Mr. Speaker: Was it after that gentleman was appointed Assistant Secretary-General or before?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Yes, after.

Mr. Speaker: That satisfies him.

Shri Joachim Alva: In the letter of the Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General dated the 16th August it is stated: "The error which you have pointed out is regretted. It seems to have been due to hasty and inefficient draftsmanship by the artist who painted the map" After this admission made by the Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General, may I know why we have not taken further steps, especially in view of the fact that they are not marking Algeria or Cyprus in the same manner that they are marking Kashmir?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The hon Member is just repeating the contents of the letter I have already pointed out that the Government are trying to find out in what possible way we can put forward our case for changing the map

Excise and Export Duty on Tea

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*227. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether there is any favourable change in the trend of world market since the change of excise and export duty on Tea?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): The new export and excise duties came into force only on 27th September, and it is too early to assess the impact of these changes on exports

Shri Raghunath Singh: Is it not a fact that in spite of the reduction of the excise duty, our export to U K and Iran is falling?

Shri Satish Chandra: That is not correct. Only one month, October has passed since changes in units were effected and exports have maintained almost the same level as in the corresponding period of last year

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार ने एक्साइज और इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी टी पर जो घटाई है, उसके फलस्वरूप क्या कोई अंदाजा लगाया है कि हमारा एक्सपोर्ट इतना बढ़ा है ?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र : यही मैंने अर्ज किया है कि यह ड्यूटी सितम्बर के आखिर मे घटाई गई थी । इसको घटाये हुए अभी सिर्फ एक महीना ही बीच में गुजरा है । जो फिगर्ज हमारे पास आई हैं उनमे पता चलता है कि हमारी एक्सपोर्ट जो घट रही थी वह घटनी बन्द हो गई है और जो कमी हो रही थी वह रुक गई है । अक्तूबर मे तकरीबन उतनी ही एक्सपोर्ट हुई है जितनी कि पहले अक्तूबर मे पिछले महीनो मे हुआ करती थी ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मै जानना चाहता हूं कि यू० के० और ईरान मे जो हमारी टी की एक्सपोर्ट होती है, क्या उसमें कोई खास कमी हुई है या नही हुई है ? मै समझता हू कि बहुत ज्यादा कमी हुई है ।

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मै यही अर्ज कर रहा था कि ज्यादा कमी नही हुई है । अक्तूबर की अभी पूरी फिगर्स नही आई है । अक्तूबर के आधे महीने की फिगर्स आई है । जो फिगर्स हमारे पास है उनसे यही अंदाजा लगता है कि उसमे ज्यादा कमी नही हुई है ।

Shri A. C. Guha: Even if the quantity of export has not gone down, may I know whether the Indian percentage of British imports has gone down or not?

Shri Satish Chandra: It will not be correct to say so, I have figures upto August in which the imports from Ceylon into U K. have gone down. Ceylon is the main competitor in the British Market. Upto August, 1958, exports from Ceylon were of the order of 263 million lbs. as against 253 million lbs. upto August in 1957. Therefore, there is no reason to suppose at present that the percentage of Indian tea is going down in the U.K market

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: The other day, during the course of the discussion of the Tea (Alteration in Duties of Customs and Excise) Bill, the Minister of Revenue and Expenditure said that the export of tea was picking up Has the hon Minister any figures to support that statement?

Shri Satish Chandra: Yes, the total exports of tea during this year have shown a better trend than last year

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: I want to know the position after the reduction of the export duty and excise duty

Shri Satish Chandra: I have already stated that it is too early to assess the effect We have got complete figures up till now

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether Government are aware that the changing of export and excise duties will not improve the condition of the tea gardens, but that there is acute need of new machinery and improvement in plantations? Tea being the biggest foreign-exchange-earning commodity, may I know whether Government are considering to set up some finance corporation just like the NIDC, to improve those gardens?

Mr. Speaker: Part of it is a question, and part of it is a suggestion

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: I want to know whether Government are proposing to set up some finance corporation

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member wants to know whether in spite of the reduction of the duty, the export of tea has not increased owing to bad machinery or old machinery in the tea gardens

Shri Satish Chandra: I do not think the hon Member himself will connect that question with exports. That is an entirely different question. He wants some financial arrangements to be made for the replacement of the dilapidated machinery in the tea gardens.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that the earnings from our export of tea to the U.K. alone during the first eight months of the year are lower by Rs 22 crores?

Shri Satish Chandra: The exports this year have more or less been, as I have said, at the same level as last year

Shri P. C. Borooah: I want to know whether the earnings during the last eight months have gone down by Rs 22 crores

Shri Satish Chandra: The prices which were lower than last year's in the beginning have now begun to pick up and the prices for the last few months are better than those of the previous months So, it is difficult to say all this till fuller information is available

Shri P. C. Borooah: My question was whether the earnings during the last eight months had gone down by Rs 22 crores

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): If you will permit me, I would like to make it clear that when the Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure said that the export was picking up, he did not confine himself to any particular period since when this excise duty was reduced, in fact, he had said that between January to October, as compared to last year, this year, the export figures have gone up In 1957, the total was 3,53,857 lbs, whereas in 1958, during the same period, it is 3,77,181 lbs So, it has picked up In fact, export has gone up during this period. The effect of the reduction or the relief given will have to be assessed after some time

National Development Council

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*229. **Shri Panigrahi:**
Shri Damani:
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:
Shri N. R. Munisamy:
Shri Ram Krishan:

Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) the important decisions taken at the National Development Council which met in November, 1958; and

(b) whether it had endorsed the memorandum on reappraisal of the Second Five Year Plan submitted by the Planning Commission.

The Parlimentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 3.]

Shri Panigrahi: According to the latest appraisal of the Plan, there is a gap of Rs. 198 crores in the Central sector and Rs. 80 crores in the States' sector. May I know how the National Development Council has decided or proposed to raise the resources necessary to meet this gap, so that the original target of Rs. 4,800 crores can be fulfilled?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Last week, I promised that some time during this Session, a statement will be laid on the Table of the House on behalf of the Planning Commission giving full facts about the resources and the outlay of the Plan, and I would ask the hon. Member to wait for that statement.

Shri Panigrahi: When it has been decided that the outlay on the Plan will not be reduced from Rs. 4,500 crores, may I know whether the Planning Commission have not decided yet the resources from which they are going to meet this target?

Shri L. N. Mishra: That determination has been expressed, that the Plan will be of the order of Rs. 4,500 crores, and we still stick to that.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Paragraph 2 of the statement specifically refers to certain decisions regarding the raising of additional resources. But, later on, I find that excepting certain vague suggestions for effecting reduction of construction costs, and compulsory savings, which have yet to be considered by the National Development Council, no other decisions have been specifically mentioned. May I know what is meant here by decisions regarding raising of additional resources? What decisions have been specifically taken?

Shri L. N. Mishra: No fresh decisions were necessary for raising additional resources, because the items for raising additional resources were already accepted in the last meeting, that is, the May meeting of the National Development Council.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In the second section of the statement, I find that the National Development Council has decided that the State should take over wholesale trade in foodgrains. May I know what steps the National Development Council has proposed, to see that the wholesale traders in every State, who are going to be licensed, do not blackmarket in this trade?

Shri L. N. Mishra: Only the principle has been accepted so far and the committee still has to work, and it is working out details of the whole scheme.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: In the statement, I find that the National Development Council has decided that during the next year, the total outlay on the Plan could be increased if the States could find resources to the extent of Rs. 25 to 30 crores. May I know how this sum of Rs. 25 to 30 crores is allocated to each State, and how they are to raise this amount, whether by way of tax or by raising private loans or market loans?

Shri L. N. Mishra: The States have to raise their resources, as in the original statement, to the tune of Rs. 220 to 225 crores or so. As a matter of fact, they have already promised to raise Rs. 5 crores of additional resources, through taxation next year.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Is it a fact that the Planning Commission, after taking into consideration the resources that could be raised, suggested that the Plan should be for Rs. 4,220 crores, and thereafter, the National Development Council decided that it should be for Rs. 4,500 crores? Do I take it that the Planning Commission now feels that additional resources could be raised to finance a Plan of Rs 4,500 crores?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): There was no suggestion in any paper put up before the National Development Council by the Planning Commission that resources could not be raised at a higher level. In fact, it is for the National Development Council to decide what should be the order of outlay. The Planning Commission cannot feel pessimistic about raising resources.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: What has been the reaction of the wholesale traders in foodgrains towards the decision of the National Development Council that the State should take over wholesale trade in foodgrains?

Shri L. N. Mishra: We cannot say the reaction of the wholesale traders, but we are very much optimistic and enthusiastic about the decision.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the States were advised to make their crucial effort to raise financial resources, but the States have informed that they have reached the limit of their taxable capacity?

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): This matter was discussed at length in the course of the deliberations at the National Development Council. The representatives of the States, that is, the Chief Ministers expressed their determination that a programme of this size had to be carried out and their part would be done.

As a contribution towards that for this year, they said they will provide Rs. 25 crores more than what had already been estimated in our original calculations. That was one step.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know if it is a fact that the Chief Minister of U.P. expressed his inability to impose new taxes in order to raise additional resources for the Plan?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is not a fact.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Manufacture of Paper and Pulp-making Machinery

*221. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan submitted by some Swedish firm to the Government of India for the manufacture of paper and pulp-making machinery has been considered and approved;

(b) if so, the important features of this plan;

(c) the extent of Indian and foreign participation in the project; and

(d) the capital and capacity of this project?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (d). A Swedish firm submitted an outline of a scheme to start the manufacture of paper and pulp machinery in India in collaboration with an Indian firm. The Indian firm has intimated that they would shortly be sending an application for licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, with full details of the scheme, for the consideration of Government.

Furniture Requirements

*223. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any overall assessment of the furniture requirements of the Government of India has been made;

(b) what portion of this at present is being made directly under the auspices of the C.P.W.D.; and

(c) what is the total bill paid by the Government of India for furniture in the year 1956-57 for furnishing the buildings constructed by the C.P.W.D.?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). No overall assessment of the furniture requirements of the Government of India has been made, as the practice generally is for the respective offices to make their own assessment and arrange procurement of furniture directly. The C.P.W.D. assess and supply the furniture required to meet the needs of their own offices as also of rent-free furnished bungalows and residences of Members of Parliament. The C.P.W D. also supply furniture against specific requests made by other offices.

(c) Information is being collected from the various Ministries and their attached and subordinate offices scattered all over the country and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Industrial Estate at Bahadurgarh

*224. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 777 on the 1st September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether final decision has been taken for setting up Industrial Estate at Bahadurgarh; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decisions taken?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The State Government have dropped the proposal for setting up an industrial Estate at Bahadurgarh, for the present.

Export of Sports Goods

*225. **Shri Kodiyan:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of sports goods has registered a decline this year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decline; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to step up export?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 4.]

Export of Hosiery Goods

*228. **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in the export of hosiery goods during the years 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far; and

(b) if so, the causes of this fall?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir; so far as Export of Cotton Hosiery goods is concerned.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The fall in the export of cotton hosiery has been mainly due to the following reasons:—

(1) Lack of standardisation in quality;

(2) Uncompetitive prices at which hosiery goods are offered in the foreign markets;

(3) Competition from other countries notably Japan and Hongkong.

Development of Basic Drugs

*230. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri R. C. Majhi:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Warior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Anirudh Sinha:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the eight-man Soviet team of experts who visited India recently to advice on the development of basic drugs has submitted its report to the Government of India;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof; and

(c) the nature of decision of Government taken in this regard?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). The experts have recommended the establishment of some production units of basic drugs. Their report is under consideration.

Aluminium Factory at Hirakud

*231. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and **Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any aluminium factory has been sanctioned to be established in Hirakud by a private party; and

(b) if so, at what stage the scheme stands at present?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd., Calcutta, have set up an aluminium smelter with an installed capacity of 10,000 tons of aluminium ingots per annum which is expected to go into production in February 1959.

Rehabilitation Department of West Bengal Government

*232. **Shri Bimal Ghose:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether an officer on Special Duty has been appointed to review the strength of the staff of the Rehabilitation Department of the Government of West Bengal;

(b) whether he has submitted a report;

(c) if so, what are his main findings and recommendations; and

(d) if not, when is his report expected?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) to (d). An officer to review the staff position of the Rehabilitation Department of West Bengal and other States in the Eastern region has been appointed only recently. He will take a few months to submit his report.

Modernisation of Cotton and Jute Industries

*233. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent so far on the modernisation and re-equipment of cotton textile and jute industries;

(b) what part of it has been advanced by Government; and

(c) the amounts likely to be spent thereon in the next two years of the Plan?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). A sum of Rs. 2·26 crores has been advanced so far to these industries by the National Industrial Development Corporation. The jute and cotton textile industry has also been utilising their own resources for modernisation. No figures are available for this.

(c) This will depend on the number of proposals that may be received in this connection.

Production of Automobiles

*234. **Shri Jadhav:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the production of the 'Fiat' and 'Dodge' Vehicles per day;

(b) their sale prices approved by Government; and

(c) the production during the years 1957 and 1958 so far?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 5.]

Displaced Persons in *Mouzas* Kodalia......

*235. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to settle with the landowners and regularise on land the 400 families camping in *Mouzas* Kodalia, Agapur and Mascesda, New Barrackpur, 24 Parganas;

(b) how long these families have been living there on doles;

(c) the total amount of doles paid during this time; and

(d) the fair price of land in this area?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Government propose to settle 424 families now camping in the *Mouzas* mentioned, on land for which fresh acquisition proceedings have been initiated, subsequent to the vacation of the injunction order passed by the High Court.

(b) Since 7th November, 1951.

(c) Rs. 17,01,114.35nP in cash and kind.

(d) Rs. 496.59nP per acre at 1946 rate.

Prices of Cotton

*236. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how do the prices of cotton this year compare with the cotton prices of last year?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): There is a downward trend in the prices of certain varieties of Indian cotton during the current cotton season beginning September, 1958 in comparison with the corresponding period of the last season.

Export of Indian Tea to U.K. and Iran

*237. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports of Indian Tea to the United Kingdom and Iran are on the decline from year to year; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). Exports to U.K. for the first 8 months of the year have more or less maintained the same level as in the corresponding period of last year. Substantial exports unsually take place towards the latter part of the year and no firm conclusion can be reached at present. A statement showing exports of Indian tea to U.K. and Iran from January, 1955 to August, 1958 is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(figures in thousand lbs.)

Year	United Kingdom	Iran
1955	251,029	10,709
1956	365,395	8,306
1957	301,717	9,944
1958 (upto August)	172,062	5,221
1957 (upto August)	173,600	5,394

Indo-Pak Border Incident

*238. { **Shri Vajpayee:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there have been raids on the Indo-Pakistan border in Rajasthan by men of the Pakistan Rifles in the course of which eight Indian villagers have been kidnapped and several hundred heads of cattle taken away; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). Attention of the hon. Members is invited to the statement laid on the Table of the House on 20th November, 1958.

Radio-Activity

*239. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1480 on the 4th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether any change in the level of radio-activity in the country has been observed; and

(b) if so, the present level of radio-activity in the country?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). No significant change in the level of radio-activity in the country has been observed. The average for the month of October 1958 is about 2.5 micro-microcuries per cubic metre of air which is well below the maximum permissible limit.

Aircrafts for Nepal

*240. **Shri V. C. Shukla:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Nepal has approached the Government of India for some aircrafts to enable it to start its own air lines; and

(b) if so, what assistance Government propose to give to the Nepal Government in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Indian Airlines Corporation have sold one Dakota to the Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation who have taken over the operation of internal air services in Nepal from the I.A.C. Associates from 1st July, 1958.

Tea Industry

*241. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign investment in India in the Tea Industry;

(b) the extent of Indian capital invested in the industry at present; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the Indian capital investments in the above industry?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) According to the latest information available, the total foreign investments in the Indian Tea Industry amounted to Rs. 87.6 crores as at the end of 1956.

(b) Indian capital invested in the tea industry was estimated at Rs. 40.51 crores as on 30th June, 1954.

(c) Under the normal process of sale of foreign owned assets in India to Indians, Indian capital investment in the tea industry is expected to increase gradually. No special measures are considered necessary at present.

Radiation Danger to Kerala

*242. { **Shri Sanganna:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Kodiyan:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred

Question No. 1332 on the 17th September, 1958 in respect of radiation danger in Kerala and state:

(a) whether the detailed studies have since been concluded; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) No. The studies have not been concluded. The study involves a complicated scientific enquiry demanding systematic and protracted investigations.

(b) Does not arise.

Cantonment Board Employees

243. Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Bahadur Singh:
Shri T. B Vittal Rao:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Kunhan:
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to set up a National Tribunal to consider all outstanding demands of Cantonment Board employees;

(b) if so, what specific demands have been referred to the Tribunal; and

(c) if decision regarding setting up of the National Tribunal has not been taken the reasons for the delay?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the order referring the dispute for adjudication to a National Tribunal is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 6.]

(c) Does not arise.

Wages of Plantation Workers

*244. Shri Tangamani:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to apply uniform wages for all plantation workers; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Governments?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) A suggestion has been made that a Wage Board on an All-India basis should be set up so that there might be a uniform approach to the question of wages for workers in the plantation industry and the views of the State Governments have been called for on this suggestion.

(b) Replies from the State Governments are awaited.

Training in Atomic Energy

*245. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have offered to the International Atomic Agency their co-operation should it wish to make use of facilities available at Atomic Energy Establishment at Trombay for the training of personnel from the countries of South and South East Asia;

(b) if so, scope and capacity of the Establishment for such training;

(c) whether International Atomic Agency has given any indication as to the extent it would like to avail of such facilities;

(d) whether International Atomic Agency has offered any scholarship to any country for such training; and

(e) if so, the nature of such scholarships offered?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). Yes; in addition to a general offer to make available the facilities of the Trombay Establishment for training of scientists from this area, and for research work by scientists and engineers from all friendly countries, Government have made a specific offer to the Agency of five fellowships for candidates from under-developed countries for study and training in electronics, neutron physics, cosmic rays, theoretical physics, radio-chemistry and analytical chemistry.

(c) Yes; the Agency has already availed of two of the fellowships offered.

(d) and (e). The Agency has offered to all its Member States fellowships providing opportunities for general techniques and specialist training and for research in the field of the peaceful uses of atomic energy at Universities, Technological Institutes, special laboratories and other institutions of higher learning in various countries.

Displaced Persons' Camps in West Bengal

*246. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Shri Panigrahi:

Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state the progress made in implementation of the Government of India's decision to wind up the displaced persons' camps in West Bengal?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 7].

Charbatia Camp for Displaced Persons

*247. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 765 on the 1st September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned one training scheme near Charbatia Camp for providing technical training to the displaced persons; and

(b) if so, the details of the training scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b): A scheme for the training of 200 displaced persons from East Pakistan as motor/truck drivers and mechanics etc. has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,21,000.

Coal Mines Bonus Scheme

*248. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of **Labour and Employment** be pleased to state at what stage is the proposal to pay bonus under the Coal Mines Bonus Scheme on a weekly or monthly basis?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): The matter is still under consideration.

Project Coordinating Committee

*249. **Shri Bimal Ghose:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Project Co-ordinating Committee set up by Government has met;

(b) what subject have been discussed;

(c) whether any reports have been submitted; and

(d) if so, what are the main recommendations?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 8].

Tractors

*250. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of Tractor spare parts have been going up considerably; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to bring down the prices?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir. Government are not aware of any abnormal rise in the prices of Tractor spare parts.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Prawns, Lobsters and Frog Meat

*251. **Shri V. P. Nayar**: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the help, if any, being given for the promotion of exports of prawns, lobsters and frog meat?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): A statement is laid on the *Table of the House. [See Appendix II,* annexure No. 9].

Export of Animal Skins

*252. **Shri V. C. Shukla**: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 430 on the 22nd August, 1958 and state·

(a) the reason why the export of the skins and other products of crocodiles and lizards of varanus salvator species was recommended to be banned by the Wild Life Board;

(b) the quantum of foreign exchange earned on the export of above products in the two years preceding the ban on their exports;

(c) whether the review of policy in this regard has since been finalised; and

(d) if so, with the what results?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) To check the ruthless exploitation and the danger of complete extinction of the species.

(b) Statistics of foreign exchange earned during 1956 are not available. Figures for 1957 are approximately as follows:

Crocodiles skins	Rs 7 lakhs
Varanus Salvator	Nil

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It has been decided not to relax the existing ban on export for the present due to the rarity of the species. In order, however, to ensure that our markets abroad are not lost to us, it has been decided to allow imports of raw skins of lizards and reptiles from Pakistan under O.G.L. and their export from India.

Indian Visitors to Pakistan

*253. **Shri D. C. Sharma**: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 60 on the 11th August, 1958 and state:

(a) whether there was any correspondence between the Governments of India and Pakistan regarding the great hardship and harassment to which Indian visitors are being subjected because of the rigid application of residential permit system enforced with effect from 1st June, 1958; and

(b) if so, whether Government have received any reply?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At first the Pakistan authorities had made it obligatory for Indian visitors to Pakistan to report to the Distt. Registration Officers within 24 hours of entry. Pakistani visitors to India can report within 14 days. On our representation, the Pakistan authorities have extended the time-limit from 24 to 72 hours. We do not consider this satisfactory enough and the matter is being pursued further.

Cement Factory in Orissa

*254 **Shri Sanganna**: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 415 asked on 22nd August, 1958 in respect of cement factory in Orissa and state:

(a) whether any final decision has since been arrived at; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) No final decision has yet been taken

(b) Does not arise

Indians in U.K.

255. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri A K. Gopalan:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian citizens specially students have of late been victims of hooliganism in U K,

(b) whether any incident has been brought to the notice of Government, and

(c) if so what steps have been taken to safeguard the interest of Indians there?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan) (a) and (b) In the course of the racial riots in some parts of the United Kingdom which were mainly aimed at the people from the West Indies four Indian students were attacked and suffered injuries

(c) Public opinion in the United Kingdom has expressed itself strongly against these racial riots and the United Kingdom Government have taken special precautions to prevent the recurrence of such incidents Some youths responsible for the disturbances have been sentenced to heavy terms of imprisonment It is reported that as a result of these steps there has been a general improvement in the situation

Rural Industrial Estate near Badli

*256. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the **Minister of Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state at what stage is the scheme for establishment of a Rural Industrial Estate near Badli?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): The scheme for setting up a rural Industrial Estate near Badli has been prepared and accepted in principle by Government Preliminary steps for acquisition of land have already been taken. The detailed site plans of the factory buildings, layout of the construction of the estate etc are now being worked out by the C P W D

U.S Aid under Development Loan Fund

*257. **Shri Panigrahi**: Will the **Minister of Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 514 on the 26th August, 1958, and state

(a) whether the details of specific projects in respect of development of road transport, cement and jute industries have been worked out, and

(b) what are those specific projects in which the Development Loan Fund of the U S A is going to be invested?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah) (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix II annexure No 10]

X Ray Equipment Factory

*258. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Shri Ram Krishan
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:
Shri Naushir Bharucha.

Will the **Minister of Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme for setting up factories for manufacturing X-Ray equipment in India is under the consideration of the Government of India,

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be arrived at?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (c) Three schemes in the large scale sector and one scheme in the small scale sector have been approved by the Government, subject to approval of the terms of their foreign collaboration, which are under scrutiny.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 11].

Textile Commissioner

*259. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee is being formed to advise the Textile Commissioner regarding efficient running of Textile Mills; and

(b) if so, the composition of such committee?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b): In pursuance of the recommendation of the Textile Enquiry Committee, since accepted by Government, a Committee to advise the Textile Commissioner, on the working of the units of the industry, is being set up. The composition will be announced shortly.

Trade with Canada

*260. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to reduce the gap in India's trade balance with Canada during 1957-58; and

(b) the present position in regard to our exports to and imports from Canada?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b): A statement showing India's imports from and exports to Canada during 1957 and the first eight months of 1958, for which figures are available, is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 12].

Apart from general export promotion measures some special steps for increasing exports specifically to Canada have been taken: these are set out in the statement which is also laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 12].

India's Export Trade

378. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's export trade is facing a competition from Japan;

(b) if so, what are the commodities which are adversely affected and in which foreign markets; and

(c) the extent to which our export trade has been affected thereby?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Japanese competition exists in the case of nearly all manufactured goods and textiles and is being felt in most of our export markets in the S.E. and West Asia.

(c) Our export trade is being affected by competition not only from Japan but from a number of other countries. It would, therefore, not be possible to assess the extent to which our exports have suffered as the result of Japanese competition alone.

Kingsway Camp, Delhi

379. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1454 on the 22nd September, 1958 and state the progress made in meeting the demands of the residents of the Kingsway Refugee Camp in Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): Some additional water taps have already been provided in the latrines and more are being provided. Additional latrines will shortly be constructed. The question of rent will also be decided shortly.

Cloth Production

380. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target was fixed in the First or the Second Five-Year

Plan period for overall increase in total cloth production; and

(b) if so, what has been the achievement so far in relation to these targets?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The targets fixed for overall production of cloth in all sectors for the 1st and 2nd Five Year Plans were 8,400 million yards and 6,400 million yards respectively. As against these targets, the production of cloth at the end of the 1st Five Year Plan i.e. in 1955-56, was 6,851 million yards in all sectors and in the second year of the 2nd Plan i.e. 1957-58, was 7,202 million yards in all sectors. In the current year (April—August) the production of cloth has been 2,918 million yards.

Balance of Trade with West Germany

381. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian markets are favourably impressed by the West German goods; and

(b) if so, the balance of trade during 1957-58?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Government are not aware of any particular complaint in respect of the goods imported from West Germany.

(b) The trade position between India and West Germany during 1957-58 is as given below:—

(Rupees in lakhs)

Imports into India from West Germany.	124,07
Exports including re-expots from India to West Germany. .	15,52
Balance of trade against India .	108,55

N.B.—Figures are provisional and subject to revision.

Indian Employees in Foreign Embassies

382. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Indians employed in the offices of foreign embassies in India, embassy-wise?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): A statement showing the number of Indians employed by Foreign and Commonwealth Diplomatic Missions in India, New Delhi (Mission-wise) is placed on the table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 13].

Cement Quota

383 { **Shri Ram Krishan:**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quota of cement allotted to the Punjab State for the year 1958-59 so far; and

(b) the quantity thereof lifted so far by Punjab?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) A quantity of 340,269 tons has been allotted to the Punjab against State quota during the period from the 1st April, 1958, to the 31st December, 1958.

(b) 177,303 tons.

Textiles

384. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the average cost of production of Textiles in India as compared with the cost of production in Japan?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The cost of production of cotton textiles varies from mill to mill and also from one variety to another variety of cloth. Broadly speaking the average cost of production of medium cloth of 20s × 20s, 52 Reeds and 52 Picks and 30s × 30s, 56 Reeds and 56 Picks in grey varieties which are the important categories produced also by Japan will be about Rs. 0-9-0 and Rs. 0-11-6 respectively per square yard. No information is available about the cost of production of such cotton textiles in Japan.

Export of Ready-made Garments

385. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prospects for export of ready-made garments of good quality are considered favourable;

(b) if so, the names of countries where these are considered favourable; and

(c) the volume of ready-made garments exported during the current year so far?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Garments made from cotton fabrics have good export potential in British East Africa and West Africa, Rhodesia and Nysaland, British West Indies, U.K., U.S.A., and Malaya; and those made out of Art Silk Fabrics in Aden, Bahrein, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Tanganyika.

(c) Rs 30 lakhs worth of ready made garments made from cotton and Rs. 24 lakhs worth of art silk garments have been exported during the current year.

Complaint against Companies in Orissa

386. **Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies in Orissa against which the complaints were filed during 1957-58 for defaults of various provisions of the Companies Act; and

(b) the action taken in each case?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). A statement containing the information sought is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 14.]

Non-Ferrous Metals

387. **Shri P. K. Deo:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what is the total yearly off-take of non-ferrous metals by rolling mills in Orissa?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): There does not appear to have been any *consumption of non-ferrous* metals by any rolling mill in Orissa. Figures for past consumption are not available.

उत्तर प्रदेश में कम्पनियां

३८८. **श्री सरजू पांडे :** क्या **वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५७–५८ में उत्तर प्रदेश में कुल कितनी कम्पनिया पूंजीबद्ध की गईं ;

(ख) इन कम्पनियों मे कुल कितनी पूंजी लगी हुई है ; और

(ग) उपरोक्त कालावधि में उत्तर प्रदेश में कितनी कम्पनियां बन्द हो गईं ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) . (क) ३६ कम्पनिया ।

(ख) २·११ लाख ० (प्राप्त पूंजी)

(ग) ११ कम्पनिया ।

नोट — उत्तर के भाग (ख) और (ग) मे दिये गये आंकड़े अस्थाई है और ३१ मार्च, १९५८ तक प्राप्त जानकारी पर आधारित है । भाग (ग) उन कम्पनियों की संख्या जो अन्तिम रूप से बन्द की गयीं ।

स्रोत :—मंथली ब्लू बुक आन ज्वाइंट स्टाक कम्पनीज, मार्च १९५८ जिसकी प्रतियां लोक सभा सचिवालय के पुस्तकालय में उपलब्ध हैं।

उत्तर प्रदेश में गन्दी बस्तियों की सफाई

३८९. श्री सरजू पांडे : क्या **निर्माण, आवास और सम्भरण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में गन्दी बस्तियों की सफाई के लिये द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत कितनी धन राशि नियत की गयी है; और

(ख) इस प्रयोजन के लिये नियत की गई धन राशि में से राज्य सरकार ने अब तक कुल कितना धन व्यय किया है ?

निर्माण, आवास और सम्भरण उपमंत्री (श्री अनिल कु० चन्दा) : (क) १.९६ करोड़ रुपये।

(ख) ३१ मार्च १९५८ तक उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा १५·५० लाख रुपये गये थे। दिसम्बर, १९५७ में उत्तर प्रदेश की गन्दी बस्तियों की सफाई के लिये १·६९ करोड़ रुपये लागत की प्रयोजनाएं स्वीकृत की गईं।

हथकरघा उद्योग के प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र

३९०. श्री सरजू पांडे : क्या **वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में केन्द्रीय सरकार ने हथकरघा उद्योग के कितने प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र स्थापित किये हैं ;

(ख) इन केन्द्रों में कितने व्यक्ति प्रशिक्षित किये गये हैं ; और

(ग) इन केन्द्रों पर कुल कितना व्यय हुआ है ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) : (क) वाराणसी का सेन्ट्रल वीविंग इन्स्टीट्यूट ही वह एकमात्र शाला है, जिसे केन्द्रीय सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश में चला रही है। केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस शाला को सितम्बर, १९५६ से अपने हाथ में लिया है।

(ख) इस शाला से १९५६–५७ तथा १९५७–५८ में क्रमशः ४९ और ५२ प्रशिक्षार्थियों ने अन्तिम परीक्षा पास की है।

(ग)

१९५६–५७ (१७–९–१९५६ से)	१९,१९५.५५ रु०
१९५७–५८	६१,९१७.६० रु०
१९५८–५९ (३१–१०–१९५८ तक)	३७,४४६.३८ रु०

Companies in Orissa

391. Shri Kumbhar: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the names of registered companies in Orissa, district-wise, at present?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The district-wise list of all the companies registered in the State of Orissa is not readily available, and the time and labour involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with the results likely to be obtained. Information as to the number of Companies registered in each district of the State is, however, available at page 153 of the Monthly Blue Book on Joint Stock Companies in India for May, 1958, copies of which are available in the Lok Sabha Library.

Weavers Co-operative Societies in Orissa

392. Shri Kumbhar: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Weavers Co-operative Societies in Orissa, district-wise, at present; and

(b) the number of such societies running among the Scheduled Castes, district-wise?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [*See* Appendix I, annexure No. 15.]

(b) Separate weavers Co-operative Societies are not being organised in the State for Scheduled Castes.

उत्तर प्रदेश में बिजली लगाना

३९३. श्री खुशवक्त राय क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) प्रथम पंचवर्षीय योजनाकाल मे उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को ऐसे कार्यों पर व्यय करने के लिये कितनी राष्ट्रीय तथा विदेशी मुद्रा दी गई, जिन से बिजली का उत्पादन बढाया जायगा, और

(ख) ये अनुदान किन-किन कार्यों पर व्यय किये गये ?

योजना उपमंत्री (श्री श्या० न० मिश्र) : प्रथम पंचवर्षीय योजना काल मे केन्द्र ने उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को निम्नलिखित सहायता दी —

रिहन्द बांध योजना

	(लाख रु०)
(१) नकद ऋण	३८९
(२) टी सी एम सहायता कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत उपकरण	५५ ३३
योग	४४४·३३
(ख) छोटे नगरो और देहातो के विद्युतीकरण की योजनाएं (रोजगार बढाने के लिय बिजली की सुविधाओ के विस्तार कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत)	६०
(ग) विविध विकास निधि	९१७

विविध विकास निधि से जो ९१७ लाख रुपये दिये गये है वह राशि केवल विद्युत योजनाओ के लिये ही नही अपितु सिंचाई, सडको आदि जैसे अन्य स्वीकृत विकास कार्यों के लिये भी है। इस सहायता मे से विद्युत योजनाओ पर कितनी राशि व्यय की गई इस की तथा जिन विद्युत् योजनाओ के लिये इस में से धन की व्यवस्था की गई है उन की सूची के बारे में राज्य सरकार से जानकारी मांगी गई है। विद्युत् योजनाओ को पूरा करने के लिये जो विदेशी मुद्रा दी गई उस का विवरण उपलब्ध नही है। राज्य सरकार से इस के आने की भी प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है।

Trade with Pakistan

394. Shri U. C. Patnaik: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what was the balance of our trade value of exports and imports with Pakistan between 1st April, 1957 and 31st March, 1958 separately?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(Value in lakhs of Rs.)

1957-58		Balance of Trade
Exports to Pakistan	Imports to Pakistan	
725	1140	—(415)

Industrial Extension Centres

395 Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) which of the Industrial extension centres in Bombay have started production, and

(b) what is the present turn-over of these centres per month?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 16.]

National Small Industries Corporation (Private) Ltd.

396. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the types of machines supplied by the National Small Industries Corporation (Private) Limited for the development of small-scale industries in Bombay during 1958-59 so far?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): General purpose machinery like Lathes; Shaping, Milling, Bench drilling and Grinding machines; and Special purpose machinery for manufacture of Tin Containers. Nuts, Bolts and Nails, Papers Pins and Gem Clips, Cycle Parts and for Electroplating, Silk twisting, Reeling and Doubling and Coil winding for Electric Motors.

Small Scale Industries in Marathwada (Bombay)

397. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the number of small scale industries to be established in the Marathwada region of Bombay to help the unemployed during 1958-59 and 1959-60?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The location of specific schemes of Small Scale industries to be started by State Governments is a matter for the State Governments to decide. The Bombay Government have not so far asked for financial assistance for any new scheme of Small Scale Industries in the Marathwada region to help the unemployed during 1958-59 or 1959-60.

Industries in Bombay

398. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any sum out of the amount allotted during 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far for the development of industries in Bombay has been spent for the development of backward areas in that State; and

(b) if so, the total amount spent so far?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). Figures are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Companies in Bombay

399. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies in Bombay against which complaints were filed during 1957-58 for default of various provisions of the Companies Act; and

(b) the action taken in each case?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). A statement containing the information sought is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 17.]

Export of Handloom Cloth

400. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a scheme to increase the export of handloom cloth; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society, State Apex Societies of Handloom Weavers and other Co-operative organisations dealing with weavers will be granted licences for import of cotton yarn of counts 100 or above and/or certain specified textile dyes equal to 10 per cent. of the f.o.b. value of the exports of handloom cloth.

Central Assistance to Bombay

401. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any curtailment in the allotment of Central assistance for implementation of the annual plan of the Bombay State for the year 1958-59 under Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the exact position in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Industries in Jammu and Kashmir

402. **Shri A. M Tariq:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industries so far established in Jammu and Kashmir State under the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) what steps are being taken to develop industries in the State?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lai Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course

Import of Foreign Films

403. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the total Foreign Exchange (Sterling, Dollars and other Currencies) spent on the import of foreign films during 1958-59 so far?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The currency-wise value of imports of exposed films during 1958-59 (April-August) is given below. The information beyond August 1958 is not yet available.

	Value in '000' of Rs. 1958-59 (April-August)
Exposed Films	
1. *Standard* 35 m.m.	
Dollar	180
Sterling	299
Other currencies	361
Total	840
2. *Sub-standard.*	
Dollar	38
Sterling	88
Other currencies	47
Total	173

Border Incident

404. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 21 on the 11th August, 1958 and state the further progress since made in the disposal of the protest lodged with the Pakistan Government against the intrusion of armed men into the border village of Jalalpur in Agartala in October, 1957?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No final reply has yet been received from the Government of Pakistan The High Commission of India in Karachi are pressing them for it.

Production of Fertilizers at Sindri

405. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:
Shri U C. Patnaik:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of certain fertilisers at the Sindri Factory has exceeded the target fixed for 1957-58;

(b) if so, details of the items which have exceeded the target figures;

(c) whether the factory has also made any profits during 1957-58; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). The Sindri Fertilizer Factory is at present producing only Ammonium Sulphate. The production of Ammonium Sulphate during the year 1957-58 exceeded the target of 3,30,000 tons by 2,031 tons.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d)

Gross profit	Rs. 3,52,11,246
Amount provided for depreciation	Rs. 1,96,11,230
Net profit.	Rs. 1,56,00,016

हिमाचल प्रदेश में सीमेंट के कारखाने

४०६. **श्री पद्म देव :** क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार हिमाचल प्रदेश में सीमेंट के कारखाने खोलना चाहती है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह प्रस्ताव कब तक कार्यान्वित होने की आशा है ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) : (क) और (ख). हिमाचल प्रदेश में सीमेंट का कारखाना खोलने के लिये इस समय सरकार की कोई योजना नहीं है । लेकिन इस बात की जांच की जा रही है कि शाफ्ट भट्ठी वाले छोटे कारखाने वहां स्थापित करना संभव है या नहीं ।

नैनी औद्योगिक बस्ती योजना

४०७. **श्री पद्म देव :** क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या नैनी औद्योगिक क्षेत्र योजना पूर्ण हो चुकी है ;

(ख) वहां कौन-कौन से उद्योग चल रहे हैं और उन में क्या प्रगति हुई है ; और

(ग) क्या इन उद्योगों में तैयार माल भी बाहर भेजा जाता है ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) : (क) प्रश्न का अभिप्राय शायद नैनी की औद्योगिक बस्ती से है । वह बन कर पूरी हो गई है ।

(ख) २५ कारखानों को जगह अलाट कर दी गई है । ये कारखाने फाउंटेनपेन के पुर्जे, निब, बोल्ट, ढिबरियां तथा रिपट, पैनल पिन तथा तार की कीलें, इस्पात का फर्नीचर तथा कांटेदार तार, खेती के उपकरण, दरवाजे में लगाने के कब्जे, टीन पर छपाई और औजार, मशीनी खिलौने, साइकिलों के हिस्से, वैज्ञानिक दार्ष्टिक तथा वैद्युत यंत्र, नरम इस्पात अल्मीनियम के खिड़की दरवाजे, लकड़ी में लगने वाले पेच तथा मशीनी पेच काबले, कंड्इट पाइप और बांस की बनी चीजें आदि बनायेंगे । अधिकांश कारखाने लगाये जा रहे हैं । अभी तक सिर्फ तीन कारखानों में उत्पादन शुरू हुआ है । ये कारखाने फाउन्टेनपेन, लोहा ढाल कर रेलवे के स्लीपर तथा दबाकर सीमेंट कंकरीट के पाइप बनाते है ।

(ग) अभी यहां बनाने वाली किसी भी चीजों का विदेशों को निर्यात नहीं होता ।

खेल का सामान

४०८. **श्री पद्म देव :** क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारत खेलों का कोई सामान आयात करता है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस आयात को बन्द करने का विचार कर रही है ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) : (क) जी, हां । खेल कूद का जो सामान देश में नहीं बनता सिर्फ उसी का विदेशों से आयात करने की अनुमति दी जाती है ।

(ख) जी, नहीं ।

मण्डी में नमक की खानें

४०९. **श्री पद्म देव** : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मण्डी की नमक की खानों में इस समय कितने प्रवीण तथा अप्रवीण श्रमिक काम कर रहे हैं ;

(ख) उन की मासिक मजूरी क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उन के रहने की व्यवस्था की है ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) : (क) खानों में काम करने वाले प्रवीण तथा अप्रवीण मजदूरों की संख्या क्रमशः २७ और ६७ है ।

(ख) प्रवीण तथा अप्रवीण मजदूरों की मासिक मजदूरी निम्नानुसार है :—

प्रवीण—

दैनिक मजदूरी वाले श्रमिक ६० रु० से ६४ रु० तक ।

मासिक मजदूरी वाले श्रमिक—११० रु० से १४० रु० तक ।

अप्रवीण—

दैनिक मजदूरी वाले श्रमिक—४४.५० से ५१ रु० तक

मासिक मजदूरी वाले श्रमिक—७० से ८० रु० तक ।

(घ) खानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों के रहने की सरकार ने कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की है क्योंकि ये मजदूर वहीं के हैं और आस पास के गांवों से भरती कर लिये गये हैं जहां उन के अपने मकान हैं । फिर भी उन के लिये खानों पर विश्राम-घरों की व्यवस्था कर दी गई है ।

Cottage Industries

410. { **Shri Tangamani:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been sanctioned to various States for the development and expansion of cottage industries for 1958-59; and

(b) if so, what amounts have been sanctioned for Madras?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following amounts have been sanctioned in respect of cottage industries for Madras State:—

Name of Industry	*Amount sanctioned 1958-59* Rs.	
(i) Handicrafts Industry	3,51,725	Technical approval to the extent of these amounts has been given by the Central Government According to the revised procedure no sanctions as such are to be issued.
(ii) Handloom Industry	74,21,862	
(iii) Sericulture Industry	84,504	
(iv) Khadi (Traditional and Ambar)	83,25,059	
(v) Village Industries	24,91,835	

Textile Mills

411. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the closed Textile Mills have now been re-started; and

(b) if so, the number of such Mills?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the period 1-1-1958 to 1-11-1958, 10 cotton textile mills restarted full working, while 2 more cotton textile mills restarted partial working. One of the 2 mills, however, again closed down after about 4 months.

Cloth Production

412. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total cloth production in the country from 1st January to the 31st October, 1958;

(b) how does it compare with production during the same period last year; and

(c) the number of cotton textile mills closed during the period and the number of workers affected by such closure?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). The production of mill-made cloth during January-October, 1958, was 4,107 million yards as compared to 4,448 million yards during the corresponding period in 1957.

(c) The number of mills totally closed during the same period was 19 and the number of workers affected by these closures was 28,612.

Deputy Chief Inspectors of Mines

413. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the two posts of Deputy Chief Inspectors of Mines have been filled;

(b) what is the present strength of the Inspectorate; and

(c) the number of Inspectors required?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) 45.

(c) The total sanctioned strength of Inspecting Officers is 86.

India Supply Mission at Washington

414. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several major steel mills in Japan had concluded contracts with the India Supply Mission, Washington for export of steel products

(b) if so, what amount of steel products is to be imported from Japan; and

(c) the main terms of contracts?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes

(b) 99,717·31 Long Tons.

(c) The contracts are subject to India Supply Mission's Standard Conditions of Contract and the regulations of the U.S.A. Government relating to Foreign Aid purchases.

Shifting of Offices to Simla

415. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Central Government offices that are located at Simla

(b) whether more offices are being moved from Delhi to Simla during current financial year; and

(c) if so, the names of such offices?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) A list of Central Government offices at present located in Simla is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 18.]

(b) and (c). The possibility of shifting some Central Government offices to Simla, in the light of the accommodation that may become available there due to the Punjab Government offices moving to Chandigarh, is being considered by the Government of India.

Art Silk Yarn

416. Shri Keshava: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of art silk yarn imported into India during the years 1956-57, 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far;

(b) the names of the countries from which imported; and

(c) how this imported art silk yarn is being distributed to the silk handloom weavers?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) The total quantity of Art Silk Yarn imported into India is as under:—

Year	Quantity in Mill. Lbs	Value in Mill Rs.
1956-57	61·69	174·75
1957-58	39·35	110·59
1958-59 (April-July)	7·81	20·68

(b) Imports of Art Silk Yarn are mainly made from U.K., Germany, Italy, France, Japan, Switzerland, Netherland, Sweden, Belgium and U.S.A.

(c) There is no scheme for the distribution of imported yarn exclusively to the handloom weavers. Licences for import are issued to Co-operative Societies who give an undertaking to the Licensing Authority to make over the imported yarn to handloom units.

State Plan of Andhra Pradesh

417. { **Shri Nagi Reddy:**
Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:

Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any changes have been made in the plan of Andhra Pradesh in the reappraisal of the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). Outlay for all the States together for the next two years has been approved. For individual States outlays will be determined during the annual plans discussions.

Industrial Estates

418. Shri R. C. Majhi: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) how many Industrial Estates have so far been completed and occupied;

(b) how many are still under construction; and

(c) how these are let out to industrialists?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Sixteen Industrial Estates have so far been completed and occupied.

(b) Twenty-eight Industrial Estates are under construction.

(c) Factory sheds are generally leased out to industrialists on rental basis. There is provision for allotment of factories on hire purchase basis or outright sale also.

Labour Tribunals

419. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state the number of cases pending at present before Labour Tribunals since three years, two years and one year respectively in the country?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Particulars of the number of cases pending before the Labour Tribunals are given below:

Three years	Two years	One year.
16	25	77

Disposal of some of these cases was delayed because of stay order by High Court and Supreme Court.

These figures do not include cases pending with State Tribunals in Bombay, West Bengal, Punjab, Assam and Mysore.

Sikh Pilgrims for Nankana Sahib

420. **Shri Raghunath Singh**: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sikh pilgrims who visited Nankana Sahib this year; and

(b) whether there were any difficulties on account of visas?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Exact figures are not available, as under existing practice, it is not necessary for Government to sponsor the visit of Sikh Pilgrims to Nankana Sahib. Government have however been informed by the Pakistan authorities that they have permitted a party of 500 Sikh pilgrims to visit Nankana Sahib from 24th to 27th November, 1958.

(b) Does not arise.

National Design Competition

421. **Shri Damani**: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a "National Design Competition" for 1958 has been organised by the All India Handicrafts Board; and

(b) if so, the details of the competition?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 'National Design Competition' has been organised by the All India Handicrafts Board for the first time with a view to assessing the quality of talent available for the revival of handicrafts designs. Presently, this competition is limited to three major handicrafts *viz.* (i) pottery (ii) textiles, and (iii) toys. In subsequent years, it is proposed to be extended to other items. The competition is open to craftsmen, designers, artists and other residents of India. The last date for the receipt of entries is the 15th January, 1959. A Board of prominent artists will judge the entries and award four prizes of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 500, Rs. 250, and Rs. 250 in each group.

Foreign Guests

422. **Shri Ram Krishan**: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on tea parties and formal dinners during this year on foreign guests?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The total expenditure on receptions and formal dinners held in honour of foreign guests during this year is Rs. 34,900/-.

Workers in Shellac Factories

423. **Shri Rajendra Singh**: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of labourers working in Shellac factories have been rendered unemployed; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide them employment?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). The matter falls in the State sphere. Statement giving the information received from the State Governments so far is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 19.]

Industrial Estates in Himachal Pradesh

424. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether plan for the setting up of Industrial Estates in Himachal Pradesh has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). One small industrial Estate has been allotted to Himachal Pradesh. The State Administration have proposed to locate the Industrial Estate at Solan for which they have selected a site. The plans and estimates are being prepared by P.W.D. (Himachal Pradesh) and preliminary steps are being taken to acquire the land for the Estate.

Irrigation Potential of Assam

425. Shri Basumatari: Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Programme Advisers of the Planning Commission have visited Assam for discussion with the State Government the question of full utilisation of irrigation potential in the State; and

(b) if so, the special recommendation, if any, made for the areas where there are no irrigation facilities?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Circles in C.P.W.D.

426. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the number and names of Circles in the C.P.W.D. as on 1st October, 1958;

(b) the names of different Divisions under each Circle;

(c) the names of different Sub-Divisions; and

(d) the number of workcharged staff in each category of post in each Sub-Division?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) to (c): A statement showing the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, Annexure No. 20].

(d) The information is not readily available as the Sub-Divisions are widely scattered within and in some cases, outside the country. Information will be collected but this will entail lot of time.

Chief Engineer's Office of the C.P.W.D.

427. Shri Kodiyan: Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers and staff working at present in the Chief Architect's Section in the office of the Chief Engineer, C.P.W.D., in New Delhi;

(b) the salaries and allowances of the different grades of officers;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the Chief Architect's Section during each of the last two years and budgeted for the current year;

(d) the number of schemes turned out by the Section in each of the last two years; and

(e) whether any proposals for economy in the Section have been considered?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) and (b). As per statement laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 21].

(c)	1956-57	Rs. 12,09,473|-
	1957-58	Rs. 12,67,040|-
	1958-59	Rs. 17,05,700|- (Budgeted).

The different between the budgeted figure for 1958-59 and the expenditure in 1956-57 and 1957-58 is mainly due to:

(i)	Provision of salary for unfilled posts	Rs. 1·60 lakhs
	Expenditure on Architectural staff stationed at Calcutta and Bombay which was not included in the earlier expenditure figures	Rs. 0·65 lakhs
(iii)	Proportionate cost of contingencies and normal increments	Rs. 1·90 lakhs
	Total :	Rs. 4·15 lakhs.

(d)	1956-57	1259
	1957-58 .	1222

(e) Yes,

(i) Filling of one post of Senior Architect was deferred and it remained unfilled from 1-10-55 to 31-10-58.

(ii) Proposal of conversion of 9 posts of Senior Draftsmen into those of Chief Draftsmen has been kept in abeyance.

(iii) One post of Junior Architect has not been filled

Co-operative Societies for Khadi in Mysore State

428. Shri Wodeyar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the places where the co-operative societies for Khadi are located in Mysore State; and

(b) the nature of assistance given to these societies by the Central Government?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):

(a) A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, Annexure No. 22].

(b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission provides financial assistance by way of loans and grants, *e.g.*, loans for working capital, share capital, purchase of cotton; and grants and subsidy on production and sale of Khadi, holding of exhibitions, competitions, etc. Assistance in other forms (*viz.*, Training, Marketing, and Technical) is also provided to the Co-operative Societies for the development of Khadi Industry.

Small Scale Industries in Punjab

429. Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the help given to Punjab in the matter of development of small scale Industries during the last two years, and

(b) to what category of Industries such help has been given?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix II, Annexure No. 23].

Labour Costs

430. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a sub-committee to analyse the problem of labour costs in relation to the cost of production; and

(b) if so, the nature of the work done by the committee so far?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) The Steering Group on Wages have set up a Sub-Committee.

(b) The Sub-Committee has not yet met.

Indians for England

431. Shri Jadhav: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Passports issued for England during the last five years (year-wise); and

(b) the number of immigrants at present in England?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Import of non-ferrous metals from Canada

432. **Shri P. K. Deo:**
Shri B. C. Prodhan:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1983 on the 3rd April, 1958 and state:

(a) how many tons of aluminium and copper and other non-ferrous metals have been imported from Canada under the Colombo Plan;

(b) at what price; and

(c) whether the payment was made in rupee or in foreign currency?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). Imports of approximately 10,000 tons of Aluminium, 9,000 tons of Copper and 250 tons of Nickel are under way from Canada under the Colombo Plan. Information regarding the quantities that have arrived and prices thereof is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The question of payment in rupee or foreign exchange does not arise as the imports are financed by the Colombo Plan Administration under the Aid Programme.

Mobile Medical unit for Refugee Camps at Burdwan District

433. **Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any mobile medical unit was sanctioned for refugee camps of the Burdwan district, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, when?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) and (b). A mobile medical unit was sanctioned for the domiciliary treatment of displaced T.B. patients in camps and colonies in Burdwan District, West Bengal, on 15th October, 1956.

खेल का सामान

४३४. **डा० राम सुभग सिंह :** क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५७-५८ में कितने मूल्य का खेल का सामान निर्यात किया गया;

(ख) यह माल किन-किन देशों को निर्यात किया गया ; और

(ग) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष में कुल कितने रुपये का सामान निर्यात किया गया ?

वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) : (क) १०.२९ लाख रुपये का सामान निर्यात किया गया ।

(ख) खेल कूद का हमारा अधिकांश सामान ब्रिटेन, प० जर्मनी, कनाडा, सं० रा० अमेरिका, स्वीडन, अफगानिस्तान, फिजी द्वीप समूह, कुवैत, बहरीन द्वीप समूह, बरमा, लंका तथा सिंगापुर को निर्यात किया जाता है ।

(ग) चालू वित्तीय साल (अप्रैल-अगस्त, १९५८) में ४.२१ लाख रु० के मूल्य का खेलकूद का सामान निर्यात किया गया । अगस्त के बाद के आंकड़े अभी उपलब्ध नहीं है ।

Labour Colony in Cuttack under Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme

435. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme any labour colony has been established in Rajabagicha in Cuttack in Orissa with Central assistance;

(b) the number of houses which have been built in this colony;

(c) whether any specifications have been laid down for construction of houses under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme; and

(d) if so, whether the said labour colony at Rajabagicha in Cuttack has been constructed according to the specifications and plans laid down by the Government?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). Yes. The Government of Orissa have built 160 one-roomed single-storeyed tenements at Rajabagicha, Cuttack, under the Scheme. Central financial assistance was based on the ceiling cost of Rs. 2,700|- per tenement.

(c) The Scheme prescribe minimum standards of accommodation, layouts, densities and specifications. Specifications can, however, be modified to suit local climatic conditions and building materials readily available.

(d) The Government of Orissa have been requested to supply the required information and their reply is awaited.

Industrial Committee on Inland Transport Services

436. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1966 on the 12th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the Industrial Committee on Inland Transport Services has since been constituted;

(b) if so, the names of All India Organisations from which representative have been taken;

(c) the date fixed for the first meeting of the Committee; and

(d) the subjects that will be discussed at this meeting?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a). No.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Powerlooms in Punjab

437. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of powerlooms in the State of Punjab up-to-date;

(b) where they are located with a break-up of number of powerlooms at each place;

(c) the number of powerlooms at the end of the year 1956;

(d) the number of powerlooms permitted to be installed in that State during the years 1957 and 1958 with their location; and

(e) how many of them have been permitted for individuals and the number of power looms allowed to the Co-operatives?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):
(a) (i) Cotton yarn powerlooms—1179;
    (ii) Non-cotton yarn powerlooms—5104;
(b) (i) Amritsar—4805;
    (ii) Ludhiana—1387;
    (iii) Other districts—91;

(c) 5960.

(d) 149. Location not available.

(e) All the above 149 powerlooms were permitted to individuals.

Cottage Industries in Punjab

438. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money allocated to Punjab for the improvement of cottage industries during the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount spent so far yearwise?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). The details of the amount allocated for the improvement of cottage industries and the amount spent so far are shown in the statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [*See* Appendix II, Annexure No. 24].

Industries in Punjab

439. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Punjab State Government out of the total allotments made by the Central Government for the development of various industries in that State during the First and Second Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the names of the industries and the places where these have been located?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

Handicrafts

440. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any handicrafts are being developed in Bombay under the guidance and patronage of the All India Handicrafts Board; and

(b) if so, how many persons have been employed and what is the average earning per head?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) Yes, Sir. On the recommendations of the All India Handicrafts Board, financial assistance has been sanctioned to the State Government of Bombay for implementation of various schemes for development of handicrafts. These cover the industries pertaining to pottery, dyeing and printing, mat-making, lacquerware, surat brocades, glass toys, decorative-cum-utility articles in metalware, papier mache, fibre works, embroidery work and toys and dolls. These schemes envisage training, improvement in design and marketing etc. In addition, the All India Handicrafts Board is also conducting centres for development of selected handicrafts such as brocades, weaving, dolls, educational wooden toys, pottery, lacquerware and design development.

(b) In Centres directly under the control of the All India Handicrafts Board the position is as follows:—

(i) Employment .	120 persons-65 being craftsmen and artisans.
(ii) Average pay per head other than craftsmen.	Rs. 165/- per month.
(iii) Craftsmen and artisans.	Rs. 4·75 per head per day on an average.

Village Housing Projects Scheme

441. **Shri B. C. Mullick:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 2824 on the 25th September, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the state-wise allocation of funds for the Second Plan Period under Village-Housing Projects Schemes has been finalised after the reappraisal of the Plan;

(b) if so, what amount has been allocated under that Scheme to Orissa for the Second Five Year Plan; and

(c) the amounts drawn by the State Government of Orissa up to the end of 31st October, 1958 out of the allocation of Rs. 3 lakhs for the year 1958-59?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The Planning Commission intend presenting a document before Parliament giving a fresh assessment of resources and outlays under the Plan. Thereafter, it will be possible to distribute the accepted provision for 'HOUSING' amongst the various housing schemes including the Village Housing Projects Scheme

State-wise allocations under the various schemes will be finalised in consultation with State Governments at the time of the discussion of their annual plans.

(c) In accordance with the revised procedure for release of Central assistance to States laid down by the Government of India in May 1958, three-fourths of the Central assistance for the States' Development Plan for the year (including that for Village Housing Projects Scheme) is being automatically released to them in nine equal monthly instalments beginning from May 1958, as lump sum ways and means advances. Final adjustments will be carried out in the last quarter of the current financial year.

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12 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MURDER IN A NIGHT TRAIN

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Shri Braj Raj Singh, as follows:

> "Failure of the Ministry of Railways to take adequate security measures for the safety of passengers travelling on the railways as a consequenc of which brutal murder of a Head Mistress Mrs. Harjeet Kaur took place in a second class compartment of a night train from Hoshiarpur during the night of 23rd November, 1958, between Adampur Doaba and Jullunder Cantonment stations, thereby creating a feeling of utter insecurity among the passengers travelling during the nights".

This is what has appeared in the newspapers.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Previously also, there was a very brutal murder at Tundla where three or four persons were murdered in the train. We had been receiving such information also regarding other trains. This has happened again. This is a very serious matter. I feel the Railway Ministry has not been taking adequate steps for the safety of passengers travelling by night trains.

Mr. Speaker: We have allotted some time for a discussion on safety measures. I believe the discussion on late-coming of trains is over.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): We had a discussion on thefts. We were then assured that thefts were on the decrease. It was also specifically stated that special protection would be given to women and women's compartment would be put right in the middle of the train. In this case, a woman was travelling alone in a second class compartment and a brutal murder has taken place.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): After this discussion, during which the hon. Deputy Minister made a statement, was over, every leading English journal in our country has written editorials about this. They have been highly critical of the statement of the Deputy Minister. We want civilised travel where safety is ensured, and if a woman passenger travelling in second class is murdered, what about passengers in other classes?

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): What about men?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): The incident referred to makes very painful reading and it is very unfortunate. But this notice was received in the Ministry only an hour back. We have been trying to get information, and the little information that was got is not full. We are getting in touch with the higher officers. If this could kindly be taken up day after tomorrow, it would be possible to place some more details before the House.

Mr. Speaker: When does he hope to get more details?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: If possible, we will try to get more details today. Tomorrow is a holiday. We have not got the full information and it may possibly be not got by today. So tomorrow being a holiday, it may kindly be taken up day after.

Mr. Speaker: I will hold it over till day after tomorrow. But I am really surprised that the hon. Deputy Minister should say that notice was received only just now. He should have asked for details independently of this notice. This is a murder in a train which leads to insecurity of travel due to want of adequate safety measures. By themselves, they ought to have got the information.

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): That is the point.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I submit information has been received, but it is not adequate to be placed before this House. We are in touch with higher authorities.

Mr. Speaker: I am only questioning the hon. Deputy Minister's statement that notice was received only just now and, therefore, he is trying to make enquiries. Why does he not make enquiries earlier even before notice was received?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: It is a murder that has taken place.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): The murder took place last night.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As I submitted, we have information, but it is not enough to satisfy this House.

Mr. Speaker: This matter will stand over till day after tomorrow.

Shri Raghunath Singh: I want to know whether the RPP was in the train or not.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: All that information will be placed before the House day after tomorrow.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): May I point out. . .

Mr. Speaker: I am not allowing a discussion now. If any hon. Member wants any information regarding this, he will please pass a chit to the Table. It will be passed on to the hon. Minister to gather all such information as hon. Members would like to have on this unhappy incident.

12.05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

FIFTH EVALUATION REPORT ON CD AND NES BLOCK

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Fifth Evaluation Report on working of Community Development and NES Blocks. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1042/58].

CINEMATOGRAPH (CENSORSHIP) RULES

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri A. C. Joshi): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, a copy of the Cinematograph (Censorship) Rules, 1958, published in Notification No GSR No. 945 dated the 11th October 1958. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-1043|58].

AMENDMENT TO COTTON TEXTILES (PRODUCTION BY HANDLOOM) CONTROL ORDER

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of Notification No. S.O. 2311 dated the 8th November, 1958 making certain further amendment to the Cotton Textiles (Production by Handloom) Control Order, 1956. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1044|58].

AMENDMENTS TO COFFEE RULES

Shri Kanungo: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Coffee Act, 1942, a copy of Notification No. GSR 1001 dated the 25th October, 1958, making certain further amendments to the Coffee Rules, 1955. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1045/58].

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION No. 581 re: JUTE INDUSTRY

Shri Kanungo: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement correcting reply given on 27th August 1958 to a supplementary by Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri on Starred Question No. 581 regarding Jute Industry. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-1046|58.]

RATIFICATION OF ILO CONVENTION

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement regarding the ratification by India of the ILO Convention No. 88 adopted in 1948 concerning the Organisation of the Employment Service. [Placed Library *See* No. LT-1047|58]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

THIRTIETH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): I beg to present the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.08 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STATELESS PERSONS OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN CEYLON

Shri N. R. Munisamy (Vellore): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

> The problem of stateless persons of Indian origin in Ceylon.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Last month there were reports in the Press that a Minister of the Ceylon Cabinet had stated that Ceylon Government had decided to give citizenship rights to about one and a half lakh of plantation population in all, and that the next step would be to find means of encouraging the gradual return to India of the remaining "Indians", as he chose to call them. These press reports have caused anxiety and concern to the members of the House and Government are glad of this opportunity to make a statement clarifying their position on this essentially human problem of treatment of persons of Indian origin who have chosen to make Ceylon their home.

The plantation population of Indian origin to whom the press reports referred, must be distinguished from two other categories of persons in Ceylon with whom they are sometimes confused. The first category are those known as Ceylon Tamils. They speak Tamil but they have been Ceylon nationals for hundreds of years and they are part of Ceylon in the same way as any other nationals of Ceylon Then there are Indian nationals who have gone to Ceylon for professional or business reasons. We are responsible for these Indian nationals and look after their interests as best as we can. Hundreds of these, who had been in Ceylon, have returned to India or been sent back to India by the Government of Ceylon. Nearly half a lakh (48,303) came back from the beginning of 1954 to the end of 1957. The Government of Ceylon have the right to decide whether, and for how long they would allow the national of India or any other country to remain in Ceylon. These Indian nationals can remain in Ceylon only for the period of the visas given to them by the Government of Ceylon.

The plantation population of Indian origin constitutes a third category of Ceylon residents They are about nine lakhs. They have been in Ceylon as plantation labour for a long time. Most of them were born there. The so-called Indo-Ceylon problem is the question of Citizenship rights for this estate labour which has contributed greatly to Ceylon's prosperity and which according to our views is entitled to Ceylon citizenship. It is about these persons resident in Ceylon that negotiations have taken place between the Governments of India and Ceylon. An agreement, as the House knows, was signed between the two countries in January, 1954 and further elaborated in October, 1954. Since then there have been differences of opinion between the two Governments over the interpretation of certain clauses of the Agreement and further discussions have been held from time to time. They wish to be Ceylon citizens as evidenced by the fact that almost all of them applied for Ceylon citizenship.

The Government of Ceylon issue periodical statistics on the progress of registration of these persons as Ceylon citizens. According to the latest statistics received, out of a total of 2,37,034 applications, covering an estimated 8,29,619 persons, filed by persons of Indian origin for Ceylon citizenship, only 24,559 applications covering 96,923 persons had been accepted until the end of August 1958. 1,96,063 applications covering 6,96,252 persons had been rejected. 7,397 applications are reported to have been withdrawn and 9,020 applications are still pending disposal.

The press reports about the Ceylon Minister's statement do not apparently represent the policy of the Government of Ceylon. In fact, the following day, the Prime Minister of Ceylon stated that his colleague had been misreported and that the Government had not decided the number who should be granted citizenship. In his discussions with our Prime Minister in December, 1957, he made it clear that his attitude like ours was based on the recognition that this is a human problem which calls for a human approach. In Parliamentary debates on this subject in August, 1958, he ruled out any inhuman methods as both impracticable and undesirable and declared that he was hopeful that "reasonably the problem could be solved." He also recognised that there was a lot of goodwill in India towards Ceylon.

In effect, the persons who have been refused Ceylon citizenship have been rendered "stateless". They cannot become Indians unless they are registered as such. They could only be registered if they apply for Indian citizenship of their own free will and if they are qualified for such registration under our laws.

Our stand continues to be that these people, have, by decades of their residence in Ceylon and their contribution to Ceylon's development, earned the right to continue their way of life in the country of their adoption. Those of them who wish to become Indian citizens of their own free will, can apply to our High Commissioner in Ceylon for registration and, if they qualify under our citizenship law, our High Commissioner will register them as such. We have made this position clear in all our discussion with the Ceylon authorities. Our High Commissioner in Ceylon naturally discusses this and other matters with the Ceylon authorities. The Ceylon High Commissioner also discusses this and other matters of mutual interest with our officials here. These talks and discussions continue and no new developments have taken place recently.

There is thus a measure of agreement in our outlook. Ceylon authorities, who are directly concerned with the problem, and we, who are indirectly concerned with it, are both conscious of our long common tradition of good-neighbourliness and friendship and neither of us would like this friendship to be affected by any wrong or hasty step. We are both aware that no quick solution is available. We are both exploring possibilities of a just and fair solution of this essentially human problem.

12·15 hrs.

PARLIAMENT (PREVENTION OF DISQUALIFICATION) BILL—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the

[Mr. Speaker]

following motion moved by Shri Hajarnavis on the 21st November, 1958, namely:—

> "That the Bill to declare that certain offices of profit under the Government shall not disqualify the holders thereof for being chosen as, or for being, members of Parliament, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Out of the 10 hours' time allotted, already 6 hours and 13 minutes have been taken and the balance that remains is 3 hours and 47 minutes.

How long does the hon. Minister propose to take to reply?

Shri C. D. Pande (Naini Tal): He is not here, Sir; it may be postponed for some time.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): The Ministers are absent, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Anyhow the Minister won't be called upon to reply today.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): The turn of the Minister will not come today, I think.

Mr. Speaker: At 2·30 p.m. we have to stop. The Minister will reply some other day.

But there is neither the principal Minister nor the Deputy Minister.

Pandit G. B. Pant: But we are all here, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I am not prepared to accept it, with all respect to the hon. Home Minister. Neither the principal Minister nor his Deputy is here. It is a very important Bill. Hon. Members are making submissions and we have unusually allotted not one day but three days for it.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): He has gone to the bathroom, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: No, no; hon. Ministers must show greater courtesy to this House.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (New Delhi): I endorse it, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Who are the hon. Members who want to speak? I think Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava was on his legs.

Shri C. D. Pande: The Deputy Minister has come.

The Deputy Minister of Law (Shri Hajarnavis): Sir, I was here in the House but . . .

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, all of them, may have the same difficulty as the hon Minister.

Shri Hajarnavis: Sir, . .

Mr. Speaker: I am telling the hon. Members that nobody is an exception to such calls.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Hissar): Sir, I was submitting yesterday that this is a very unfortunate Bill since none of the hon Members of this House has welcomed this Bill so far But, at the same time, I must submit for your consideration that this is one of the most important Bills that have been brought in this House, as this Bill ensures the independence of the House and freedom of the hon. Members from any coercion or undue influence or any other kind of malady which may affect the integrity of their votes

Now, I would like to call the attention of the House, first of all, to article 84 of the Constitution. I may submit that, according to me, most of the arguments which have condemned this Bill are due to the fact that hon. Members have not clearly thought out the matter for themselves. I find that many of the objections are such as could be remedied even by understanding the full implications of the provisions of the Constitution. Therefore, I would beg of you to kindly allow me some indulgence for time because I feel that I should clear away some of the cobwebs which are really clinging in the minds of some hon. Members.

I would respectfully call the attention of the hon. Members to article 84 which gives the qualifications for Members; and the qualifications are not many. A person must be a citizen of India; he must be of a particular age—25 for the Lok Sabha and 30 for the Rajya Sabha. And further, any other qualifications which this hon. House may choose to add in respect of qualifications. I understand that no other qualifications have been sought to be applied by this House in regard to sub-clause (c) of article 84. A resolution was brought in this House in the previous Parliament to the effect that some educational qualification must be added to these qualifications. But the House did not agree to it The only qualifications are that a person must be a citizen of India and he must be of a particular age. At the same time, the curious way in which we worked is that though no qualifications were attached, some disqualifications were enacted. A Member must be of such and such age; he must be free from this or free from that. So, the absence of those disqualifications becomes a qualification by itself. It means that a Member of Parliament must be a sound person. He should not be an unsound person. This unsoundness is attributed to various things. According to article 102, a Member should be physically sound; then he must not be an undischarged insolvent; he must be economically sound and then he must be politically sound and must owe allegiance to this Government and not to other countries. Lastly, he must be morally sound so that so far as his vote is concerned it would be fair and not given under coercion or undue influence or some other objection. If he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State other than those offices declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder, then also it is a disqualification. Article 102(1) also disqualifies a person if he is of unsound mind—a physical condition—and if he is an undischarged insolvent. Certainly he must not be a citizen of some other country. So far as the freedom of vote is concerned the law is very insistent. There must be freedom of vote and independence to a Member. If he is not independent and is not free to vote, he is not fit to be a Member and he comes within the purview of article 102(1). There are various ways in which this is brought about.

What has happened in other countries? After all we have taken most part of our Constitution from other countries and principally from the U K. I do not want to tire this House by giving the old history of four centuries in Great Britain where this principle has been evolved in this manner and it has culminated in the British Act of 1957. There was a time when there was a great tussle between the King and the Parliament. Eventually, Parliament was the victor and the king was defeated. At one time the mother of George IV said: "My son be a King every inch". She directed her son to become a King every inch. History records that such huge amounts as £25,000 a day were given by way of bribe by Kings at the time of election for securing Members who would support him. This battle of the superiority of Parliament against the King was won in England many years ago. We have practically copied our Constitution from other Constitutions in which the superiority of Parliament is granted. It is true that we have got Ministers of our choice. Even the President here can be turned out by a vote of Parliament. At the same time we must see that even our popular Ministers do not enjoy those powers of influencing the decisions of the hon. Members of Parliament. It is with this view that article 102 has been enacted in our Constitution. This article is of great importance and it is a great hurdle if we want to enact anything today to the country. We have not got a clean slate. According to article 102, no other authority

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except the President and the Election Commissioner can adjudge the effect if any person has accepted any office of profit. Suppose a person under a wrong belief accepts an office of profit. In the British House of Commons, there are remedies. But here we have got no remedies and the person must be unseated. The question of questions is: what is this malady against which we seek a remedy?

He is disqualified if he holds an office of profit, according to this article. First of all, what is an office of profit? These are two principal questions involved.

These questions were there from the very start. It so happened that when we started our Parliament, some persons were appointed to various Committees, etc. We had then to bring three Bills· one in 1950, another in 1951 and the third in 1953 which subsequently became Act 1 of 1954. In all these Acts, the true criterion was that if a person accepted by way of remuneration any amount of money more than Rs. 20 or such other amount of compensatory allowance, he was disqualified. That was the criterion. In Vindhya Pradesh, there were some advisory committees and a sum of Rs. 5 or so was given to some of these members on the advisory committees There were some resident members and some non-resident members. The question arose about non-resident members who were given Rs. 5 apart from their dearness allowance, etc. The Election Commissioner decided that they were drawing (the non-resident members) some profit and so they were unseated. We had to pass a law of immunity for them. On another occasion, the question of Deputy Ministers arose and we passed a law. In 1954, again we passed another law according to which certain Committees and offices were excluded from the purview of article 102 and they were declared not to incur disqualification. There was great uneasiness among the Members and many of them felt concerned about it. Our late Speaker, Shri Mavalankar, appointed a Committee to go into this question. The main grievance of the Members was that these three Bills were not satisfactory and the criterion, whether a particular holder of an office was getting certain amount of money or not, was also not satisfactory. It was submitted before the Speaker that profit did not mean money alone; it meant something more than that. This plea was accepted and ultimately the Speaker, in consultation with the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, appointed a Committee of fifteen Members who went into this question for years and then it produced a report, a unanimous report, which, according to the hon Law Minister, has served as the basis for the present law.

I put in a plea for appointing a Joint Committee on the Bill. Even then I submitted and I submit now that as between those three Bills and the present Bill as introduced there was not much of a difference. The underlying idea of the previous Bills was that money was the primary consideration for holding whether there was an office of profit. Similarly, that was the basis or the pivot on which the present Bill was revolving This was wrong The Business Advisory Committee then made a recommendation to the Law Minister to have a Select Committee and on the basis of the arguments put in this House, the House was pleased to appoint a Joint Committee which went into the affairs and produced this report.

Now, what do I find? Every hon Member rises in this seat and asks the Government to withdraw this Bill Secondly, they ask the Government to bring another Bill. A third request came from my hon. friend Shri Guha. He said, let the Bill be re-committed to this very Joint Committee. There are some hon. Members here in this House who want that any person holding an office of profit should in no case be exempted. I can understand that mentality. I congratulate them, that they think that this House must be so independent that no Member of this House may be able to hold an office of profit. That is one point of view, and it is not a point of view which can be condemned outright. But, at the same time, we are fully aware of the under-developed state of our country. We are fully aware that, as a matter of fact, the best interests of the country require that talents in the Members of Parliament should not be wasted; they should be utilised.

Our Constitution, in view of this fact, has itself provided a remedy. When you go to a hill you find a *booty* called *bichhu* which just sticks onto your cloth and body and produces pain. But at that very place you will find another *booty* which is called *palak* which takes away the pain. Similar is the case with our Constitution. Whereas the Constitution is very clear on this point that all persons who hold an office of profit will not be allowed to become Members of Parliament or continue as such, at the same time, it has given the remedy to Parliament itself because Parliament has been given powers to declare by law that such and such offices will not bring in disqualification, persons getting profit from such and such offices will not be disqualified.

Shri Mulchand Dube (Farrukhabad) May I know the number of Members of Parliament whose disqualification is being removed by this Bill?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: As a matter of fact, no disqualification as such is being removed by this Bill.

Shri Mulchand Dube: The Bill says that persons holding certain offices which are specified will not be disqualified. I should like to know the number of persons whose disqualification is being removed by this Bill.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It is very difficult to give the number of persons whose disqualification will be removed. I cannot give the number of *lambardars*, *patels* and others who are sought to be exempted from the operation of this Bill, nor can I say how many Vice-Chancellors are there in this House or how many Members are members of the Executive Committee in the University.

Shri Mulchand Dube: I was referring to the present Members of the House.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am, sorry I cannot comply with the request of the hon. Member. I do not know it myself. At the same time, so far as the Members of this House are concerned there may be very many *Members, but there are* prospective Members also. The candidates for future membership are also being exempted. It is very difficult to say how many persons are being affected.

As I was saying, Sir, the remedy is provided by the Constitution itself and Parliament has been given power to declare that holding of such and such offices does not disqualify a person Therefore, as I submitted, the remedy lies in our own hands; it does not lie in the hands of Government, it does not lie in the hands of the President, it does not lie in the hands of any person. It lies in the hands of Parliament itself, and vesting powers in the hands of Parliament is the best guarantee that they will be utilised in the right manner.

Now, exception has been taken by many hon Members. They have made a request to Government to define the term 'office of profit', as if Government was the sole body interested in it and Government could define it. I beg to submit, no Government can define what an office of profit is, no President can define what an office of profit is, nor can anybody else give a definition to it as long as our Constitution is there. I know what an office of profit is. Every hon. Member knows what an office of profit is. Everybody knows what is the meaning

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of the term 'office of profit'. But it is incapable of being defined as the Constitution has not defined it. Any definition given by us will not be acceptable to the Constitution.

An hon. Member, Shri Mulchand Dube, told us that the matter could be solved in an easy manner. He made the suggestion that under article 367 all the definitions given in the General Clauses Act can be taken to be definitions which can apply to the Constitution. If he kindly looks into the matter rather carefully he will find that not all definitions which are given in the General Clauses Act can be regarded as those which will apply to the Constitution. Those definitions must be adapted and modified under article 372. I doubt very much if a definition to this term is given even there. Even if it is given—I do not know whether it is given there because I have not seen the General Clauses Act—unless it is adapted and modified according to article 372 it cannot apply to this Constitution.

Shri Raghubir Sahai: (Budaun) Are you sure in the General Clauses Act the term 'office of profit' has been defined?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: That is exactly what I am submitting. Even if it is defined there, unless it is adapted and modified under article 372 it cannot apply to the Constitution. Therefore, if it were such an easy question the Constitution itself would have defined the term 'office of profit'. But, I would submit, it is impossible to define 'office of profit'. The first question that arises is, what is an office? I would submit, even 'office' cannot be defined Can we call an occasional employment of a Member of this House on a commission or committee once a year as an office? 'Office' by itself means that there must be some duration, some sort of tenure, a person must have accepted some function on a continuous basis and all that. It is not an occasional function where a person can go for a day or so and get some profit. The second question is, what is profit? There is the ruling of the Supreme Court that even if no money is paid it becomes an office of profit. It is no question of payment of money. It is not a question of emoluments at all. It is a question of being entitled to emoluments. It has been said in this House by Shri Biswas very eloquently—I have got his speech here—that profit does not mean rupees, annas and pies, it means much more. One member of the Bar of Hissar once jocularly remarked that if he were made a Magistrate or a *Thanedar* he would pay Government Rs. 500 a month. Similarly, I should like to say, appoint me as the conscience-keeper of the Prime Minister or the Home Minister and allow me to proceed in all matters in my own way, I will pay you Rs. 5,000 a month. Therefore, it is not the monetary point alone. If a person gets into power by which he can distribute patronage, if people know that by referring to him they can get things done, if people know that he has got power and honour, even though there is no question of money involved, it is an office of profit. I refuse to recognise that money is the only consideration That is the basis on which this Joint Committee went into this question. The previous Committee appointed by the Speaker in consultation with the Chairman also went into the question on the same basis They went into the question for months and months and produced the report.

Therefore, my humble submission is that Government must clearly understand that money is not the only question. It was not the real basis on which the present Bill was introduced. I am very glad that the hon Law Minister has accepted our view point. Their speeches showed anxiety for permitting participation of the M.P.s for more and more Committees. I can understand the anxiety of the hon. Law Minister and the Deputy Minister. I congratulate them for that anxiety. They want that the door must be very wide, because they think that unless Members of Parliament are utilised for public purposes public interest may suffer. Many of us are of the same view, but not to the extent to which our hon. Ministers have gone.

Many of us think like this. The Committee about which I have mentioned also went into the question. There the majority of members thought that even where some influence is involved, some profit is involved, some patronage is involved, because Parliament has got the power to declare that particular offices of profit may not disqualify, where question of labour, health, sanitation and development are concerned Members of Parliament should be allowed to go on those committees and make their contribution. As regards other committees, a majority of members of that Committee thought that if, as a matter of fact, the post was such as a person could come in a position of power, then it is possible that his independence may be lost and the loss of his independence would be a loss to the House—the greater the Member, the greater the loss to the House and to the public in general. If there are ten Members of this House who are very influential and are, at the same time, very much respected by the House, if they lose their independence the result will be that all others who have got sympathy with them and who are under their influence will also be influenced. The result will be, indeed, very bad.

Yesterday, you were pleased to speak about Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani. If she were the Chairman, I can understand that she might discharge her duty rightly, but there might be other Members who may not be able to do so. And then, if such a Member was there, other Members will feel the difficutly of criticising their own colleague. Many questions come before this House, and they involve a question of whether this Commission or that Committee has behaved well, and whether we should accept what it has done. The House criticises their actions. While we criticise a Chairman or a Member of Parliament who has been there, and who is principally responsible, the Government will get another ally to save themselves and to protect them and other Members who will also be there will think in the same way and will think twice before criticising their own colleague. I do not say that no arguments are there for granting full freedom. I understand that Shri Vasudevan Nair and Shri Naushir Bharucha were of the view that, as a matter of fact, it is not right to shut out Members from going to all those committees,—very important committees, as Shri Naushir Bharucha put it—and those committees which involve the turnover of crores of rupees, even much more than what our budget amounts to. I appreciate that point of view, but, at the same time, we must remember the other side of the picture too. I cannot put it better than what Shri Ranga said in the House when the Bill of 1950 was discussed. He referred to the work of Members and asked what would be the result if, supposing, the Government tempted many Members of this House and when many Members could not resist the temptation. Then, this House will be such as will have no independence at all.

This was the very real basis for centuries, and for centuries the Parliament fought with the King in the United Kingdom. Fortunately or unfortunately, I should say very fortunately, our Government is of a different kind; our Ministers do not visualise such a situation and they do not take the matter seriously, as in our Parliament, there is no such risk or hazard. No Minister is out to seduce another Member. All the Members of the House, according to my experience are not such as will just accept the influence and be seduced. I do not know of any single Member of the House who was not resisting the temp-

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tation or who, having been appointed to a committee, has not acted independently. So far, so good. But who knows what may happen subsequently. Other Governments can come in power and other kinds of Members can come.

What about the States? Even two or three members of a particular party just leave the party and go to the other party. The balance is such that everything shall topple down. Have we not seen what happened in Orissa and other places? If some members go away from one party to another by being appointed to certain committees or by being given positions of power, etc., what will be the difficulty? The difficulty will be that there will be no stable Government. Apart from that, my own humble submission is that no member of the Government and no Member of Parliament can discharge his duty rightly unless on every question that comes before him he decides the matter in an independent manner and without fear or favour. This is the right view.

I can understand the parties going wrong. I can understand other things going wrong. But I think so far as the individual Member is concerned, he ought not to be in such a position that other influences may work and he may not work independently. That is the real position as mentioned in article 102 of the Constitution.

The question is, what is the remedy. May I respectfully draw your attention to my Note of Dissent. I have stated there that we should keep this Bill in its present form, in which it has emerged out of the Joint Committee. If we allow Ministers to appoint advisers, what will happen? We have seen in the Joint Committee the nature of the committees and offices of profit. Sometimes, any adviser can be appointed by any Minister or any person in authority, and then that adviser can be a Member of this House. Having decided and defined these kinds of committees, statutory or non-statutory, I fail to see how an advisory committee can be such as can be neither statutory nor non-statutory. Therefore, the advisory committee is out of the question.

Now, if we just pass this measure, what will happen? Every Minister in this House—and their number is not small—or even more than one may appoint an adviser to himself or to his Ministry and say that a particular Bill, in particular circumstances, of the case, requires an adviser. Or, in any other way, he can justify it. What will be the result? There will be as many advisers as there are Ministers, and where will we, the Members, be? If you allow such a free hand to the Ministers to appoint whomsoever they want, from Members of Parliament, to be their advisers, and take away their vote, what will be the result? The result will be that, as a matter of fact, the very danger against which the Constitution has provided through article 102 will remain unliquidated

In the British House of Commons a practice like this was tending to come in, and every Minister wanted to appoint a Private Secretary or some officer like that. Then, the Parliament, in its wisdom, said that even the number of Ministers will be curtailed and not more than 10 per cent will be allowed to become Ministers. I know of a State Government where there is a plethora of Ministers and where everybody wanted to be a Minister. If a person becomes a member of the Legislative Assembly or of Parliament, he is out to—and everybody is out to—become a Minister. If the number of Ministers is large, and supposing all the Members are made Ministers, what would be the result? Where is the independence of the House? Who will represent the public then? So, unless there is a limit to the number of Ministers we are not safe.

But here, we have seen that this tendency is not seen. Along with the

Ministers, if you give every Minister an adviser, or appoint any number of Members of Parliament to be on committees according to the words of my friend Shri Hem Barua, what would happen? The whole House will be swamped and there will be no independence.

I have seen an instance in this House on one occasion. Once we were discussing in this House a Bill regarding vanaspathi. It so happened that Government did not expect and we also did not expect that the matter would come to a question of votes. It was all about the Bill relating to hydrogenation of vanaspathi oil. By chance, there was a vote, and what did I find? I found that Ministers who told me that they were against the measure went into the lobby with the Government, whereas we, a few persons, went the other way. We lost by two votes. I would, therefore, submit that the Government as a whole is bound to vote in one way. This is the accepted principle in our Constitution. A Minister can remain a Minister only as long as he votes with the Government. Whereas, as my friend, Shri D. C. Sharma said yesterday, we were a fortunate party. We were given so much freedom of vote and freedom of conscience and freedom in making speeches that in no other Parliament, I think, a party is allowed to behave in that way. This is good, because this party does not only consist of national leaders who have been in the brunt of the fight but of members on its rank and file who have seen those days in which they have fought with the alien ruler.

Similarly, I can say of other parties also in this House. They consist mainly of those Members—though they do not belong to the Congress Party—yet their concept of their duty and their background are the same as those of this party; so far as concept and duty are concerned, there is no difference. There are many of them here whose dust of feet I am unworthy to take away, because they have been in the Congress and they have made sacrifices to the country. I find that in this matter this is very fortunate House. It does not consist of sycophants; it does not consist of Members who will lose their independence in any manner.

This is a fortunate thing, but we do not know how far it will continue. Therefore, we enacted article 102. What is the remedy now? Supposing this Bill is not there, as my hon. friend Shri Vasudevan Nair put it and, to an extent, Shri Naushir Bharucha put it—what would happen? Then it means there is a state of such uncertainty and such suspense in the public mind that any person who stands for the election will not know whether he will sit in this House if he is successful in the election! Or, when he comes to this House, he may not know that such and such an office is an office of profit and he accepts it. Or, while being the holder of an office of profit, he is returned to the House. What will follow? First of all if objection is raised after sometime he may have to pay fine of Rs. 500 per day as prescribed in the Constitution. Ultimattely, the matter when it comes up, shall go to the President who will send it to the Election Commissioner who will decide the point and unseat him. There is no provision for condoning the lapse or giving him respite from being unseated. Though this Bill is designed only for our Parliament, ultimately it will reflect on the other legislatures also. I want to know if this House wants to leave the whole country and all prospective candidates and the members elected to the legislatures in a state of anxiety and suspense and not enact this Bill. Some Members said, "Do not enact this Bill, but let the Government bring another Bill." I challenge the Government to bring another Bill and be successful in the attempt without a schedule. They must have a schedule. There is no other go. It is impossible to enact this legislation except by way of schedule.

This is not my conclusion. This is the conclusion of the British House of

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

Commons who are really the authors of this concept as well as of many other things, which we are copying. They enacted a schedule and set at rest the discussions which went on for four centuries. They repealed a number of old Bills and Resolutions of the House of Commons which cover about 10 pages. So, this solution which has been found by the House of Commons is the one which we must copy. Some Members asked me, what is the use of copying a solution made by another Government in another set of circumstances? You can decide about the food you may be wanting to eat; it may be different in England and in India, but the manner of eating is the same. So, truth is everywhere the same. Either you must have a Bill in which a schedule is given laying down the qualifications and saying that other things which do not come under the qualifications are disqualified; or, you must have a Bill which says that these are the disqualifying offices and the rest are qualifying offices. If you want to be certain about your law and want to be unambiguous, you cannot do it without a schedule; there is no other way.

I heard Shri Guha saying, you can only declare offices which do not disqualify; you cannot have offices which disqualify in the Bill. Some other friends also expressed similar views. I am afraid some snag is there. They do not seem to understand this. Either lay down the offices which disqualify and say that the rest do not disqualify, or lay down the offices which qualify and say that the rest disqualify. Sub-section (4) of section 1 of the Act of the House of Common says clearly:

> "Except as provided by this Act, a person shall not be disqualified for membership of the House of Commons by reason of his holding an office or place of profit under the Crown or any other office or place and a person shall not be disqualified for appointment to or for holding any office or place by reason of his being a member of that House."

I want to have a similar provision in this Bill that all those offices which do not come under this schedule will be regarded as qualifying. Every person shall be free to stand for election as a Member of Parliament or continue as such, provided he does not hold any of the offices which are given in the schedule. A provision of this nature alone will solve the difficulty and no other. Either leave the law as it is and on every occasion, whenever the question arises, the matter may go to the President or the Election Commission or, if you want to have a solution, without leaving the prospective candidates and the Members of Parliament in suspense, this is the only way in which Parliament can do it.

Let there be no confusion. When we make a schedule of disqualification, we are really making a schedule of qualification also, because all those offices become qualifying except those given in the schedule. You can have either a qualification schedule or a disqualification schedule. I do not mind; it will be the same thing for me. But let us understand that schedule is the only solution. Government by itself cannot make a schedule, as some Members suggested. This Parliament should pass it.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever might be the English law, article 102 specifically says that Parliament may by law lay down that certain offices do not entail any disqualification. There is no provision here that all the others are qualifying. The House would not commit itself to that position.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: We examined about 1200 or 1300 committees and we have only selected 137. It means the holders of the rest of the offices are qualified. Either you must have a qualifying schedule or a disqualifying schedule; I have absolutely no objection.

Mr. Speaker: The House would not commit itself There may be thousand committees It has examined some All that article 102 says is that Parliament may enact a schedue containing all those offices which, in the opinion of Parliament, do not entail disqualification It does not mean that it gives a blank charter to every other committee That is not contemplated

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The objection is perfectly well-founded But instead of 137 committees, we must have a schedule containing the remaining 1363 committees, which we have regarded as qualifying I have absolutely no objection, but the number will be large You can very well say that these are the qualifying offices and the rest are disqualifying If you will give me one day, I will produce a list of 1363 committees, the composition of which we have examined and found to be not objectionable We will put that list before the House, if that solves the question To my mind, there is no difference

Shri Moraka (Jhunjhunu) How can the House exempt those bodies the list of which the House has not even seen? Apart from the question of examining, we do not even know what we are exempting

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: There is one provision which is not clear, thought it is impliedly clear, in section 3(1) That is that all other committees which do not come within the schedule are such as do not disqualify Any person can become a member of any committee except those which are given in the schedule That is the meaning I do not see any difficulty

Acharya Kripalani (Sitamarhi)· Will there be any method in this madness or not?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: This question is most relevant If you once accept that the question of having a schedule, whether it is disqualifying or qualifying, is clear, then the next question arises I am not running away from this question; this is most important But first of all, let me make it quite clear that having a schedule is the only way, whether it consists of qualifying or disqualifying committees There is no difference to my mind

Article 84 is there and article 102 is there Sections 7 and 8 of the Representation of the People Act are there They give the qualifications and disqualifications If you read the whole of it, you will find that a person can become a Member only when he is not disqualified A Member of Parliament will be able to hold an office of profit, which is not a disqualifying office. So, qualification and absence of disqualification mean the same thing

Mr. Speaker: Qualification is something positive, disqualification is equally positive

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: In the balance, there is nothing which can be said to be in suspense, just like zero You cannot say what positively qualifying is quite different from negative disqualifying Either the office is good or it is bad

Mr. Speaker. If no parliamentary legislation is passed, normally under the existing Constitution, there will be disqualification This House goes into the matter and exempts membership in certain bodies from disqulification That is all that the House is committed to

Pandit Thaknr Das Bhargava: You have put the finger at the real painful point The real painful point is, unless you go through the composition of all the committees and offices, you cannot be sure whether a particular office qualifies or disqualifies That is the crux of the question and this is my complaint to you, as the Speaker of this House

Mr. Speaker: All that I can understand is that to the extent that the Joint Committee have gone into the various details, they have included them in the schedule If any other person gets up and says that others also should be free from disqualification, those may be included later on. We are not going to exhaust every kind of committee in the world

13 hrs.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I would ask you in all humility to hear me for two minutes. I have a complaint to make to you directly. According to me unless and until somebody or some committee, select committee or any other committee, goes into the composition of all the committees and all the offices, the position cannot be clear or unambiguous.

Mr. Speaker: In the meanwhile, new offices may be created. It is impossible, because if we exhaust it today tomorrow some other committee would come in.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am speaking of the existing committees. Nobody can say anything definite about future committees. We do not know what would come into existence and what would be the composition of those committees.

So far as the existing committees are concerned, my humble submission is that having gone through their composition, whether we say that its membership qualifies or disqualifies, the result is the same. That is my humble submission.

Mr. Speaker: The Constitution does not want to tie down the hands of this House.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If, however, you want a schedule giving the names of committees the membership of which is not considered objectionable, we shall give you a list.

Mr. Speaker: It will be beyond the jurisdiction of this House to do that. All that article 102 says is that Parliament can say that such and such a post will not disqualify its holder from being a Member of the House.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Supposing there are hundred committees. Can't this House say that out of one hundred committees membership of eighty-eight will not disqualify, while membership of the other twelve will disqualify? Can it not say that membership of all the hundred will not disqualify. Under the Constitution Parliament is given the authority to declare that membership of such and such committees will not disqualify a person. This House is competent to go into the composition of all the committees on the earth.

Mr. Speaker: It is not called upon to do that.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I can say that all the committees that are existing may be scheduled and we may say that the membership of them is qualifying, while the membership of all the rest would disqualify. Can the House say this or not?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think the House can say that The House can say that such and such offices will be exempted.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Supposing the House is pleased to exempt all of them? Can't it do so?

Mr. Speaker: Of course, it can do that.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If we can do that with regard to all the offices, can't we do that with regard to a part of them?

Mr. Speaker: I am not here to decide these matters. All that I can say is that the House cannot be expected to take that responsibility upon itself.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: We can give you a complete list of all the committees which we have examined and membership of which we hold to be unobjectionable. But my complaint is quite different.

Shri Morarka: There will be another difficulty if we accept the scheme of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava. If the schedule is to be accepted in that form, supposing a new company or corporation is floated by Government, the membership of it will not disqualify the person holding it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is aware of that position; but he suggests that the list should be exhaustive. That is his view.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava I could anticipate the objection of my hon friend I have got one compalaint to make The hon the Deputy Speaker is here with us I represented to him on the Committee that he should get an exhaustive list of all the committees and their composition for scrutiny by the Sub-Committee and he did his very best I thank him for that But for his efforts we would not have got the composition of more than four hundred or five hundred committees At the same time the Law Minister and the Deputy Law Minister did their very best as well All the same the result is such that I feel ashamed and I have to voice this complaint You appointed this Committee of the House We were a Committee of Parliament, which is a sovereign body We as a body could certainly ask the Government to supply us the composition of all the committees which exist in the Centre and the States All the same some Ministries of Government did not send in the names of their committees and their composition

Shri Mahanty The Memorandum of Association of the Oil Corporation of India which was floated at that time was not sent

Acharya Kripalani In the absence of full facts, the House may pass a defective piece of legislation

Mr Speaker May I ask the hon the Deputy-Speaker to say what exactly happened there?

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda) We are aware of the fact that the Schedule is not complete At the same time we came to the conclusion that it could not be completed even if we spent ten years over it I do not agree with the point of view of Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava that it would be possible for him to supply a complete list in a day In fact, he was the Chairman of the Sub-Committee in the first instance, though afterwards he had to go away in connection with some case and we had to request another hon Member to preside over the deliberations of the Sub-Committee

In fact we have taken nine months We wrote again and again to the Ministries and to the State Governments, but we have not been able to obtain all the information that we wanted There are however, certain practical difficulties Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava suggested that all the committees existing at present must have been examined In the first instance all the lists would not be received It is a fact that even some of the Central Ministries did not supply us with complete facts We tried our best Even if we had received those lists there would have been difficulties During the time we examined their membership other committees would have been constituted, while some of those we were examining might have gone out of existence We could continue this process for an indefinite period Therefore it was thought that it might be incomplete and inconclusive All that we could do was to draw up a schedule and suggest the constitution of a parliamentary committee which could go into the constitution of committees appointed afterwards and make its recommendations to the House so that Government may bring forward legislation That was the only course that was left to us

Strong objection has been taken by several Members, but no concrete remedy has been suggested If hon Members have any remedy, they may suggest some We have actually taken nine months, but our feeling is that even if we had taken another two years, we would not have been able to frame an exhaustive schedule

Some hon Members said that their ought to be some principles laid down We tried our best, but no principles can be laid down in this matter Mr Bharucha had suggested that there should be a compensatory allowance and we should give them Rs 42 instead of Rs 21 But there was objection and it was stated that even if one rupee is charged, that might detract

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

from the independence of the member, who has got to be active here. Therefore, we found it impossible to do that. Then Panditji gave the instance that there would be some person who would say: I am prepared to give Rs. 1,000 from my own pocket if you give me the post of Sub-Inspector of Police. He gave such instances. So, it was not possible for us to lay down any principles on which we could scrutinise them and put them broadly under some categories. If there is a principle then every time people would have to run to the courts to see whether those principles have been followed, whether those principles should apply to a particular committee and whether that should disqualify or not. So, that attempt was also given up. Then we thought of preparing a schedule. Then we found it impossible to complete it or to make it a comprehensive one. So the only alternative left to us was that we might frame a schedule, incomplete and incomprehensive though it might be, for the present, and we might also constitute a Parliamentary Committee to scrutinise from time to time such committees as come to their notice or it might invite the Central Government and the Ministries to send it in future the lists of such bodies, thereby bringing our law up to date as we desire This was all that we could do.

Shri Hajarnavis: I am thankful to the Deputy Speaker for telling this House all that happened, but I must complete it lest any charge is levelled that the Ministries of the Government did not do their best to send all the information that they could secure within the time that was allowed. The requisition for information was made only in February when the Sub-Committee was formed. The Sub-Committee was formed sometime, I believe, in February, and their report was made in July or August. So, within six months, that is to say the time allowed, the various Ministries tried to collect the information. Then, it is not merely providing lists of the committees; what was required was up-to-date information about the constitution of the various committees. Now the information about the formation of these committees has to be found from various files, as the composition of the committee changes, and its extraction took considerable time. So, I must say—and I am sure the members of the Sub-Committee will bear me out that all the Ministries of the Government did their best to supply the information that was required, but it necessarily, as the Deputy-Speaker said, takes time, and they took time. There was no deliberate default either on the part of the State Government or the Ministries of the Government of India to supply any information. The only thing is that within the time that was allowed they could not vouchsafe that they had convened all the committees They had supplied us information about large number of committees and corporations.

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): The result is the same.

Mr. Speaker: It was stated that the Sub-Committee was not able to collect all the information. I have been reading article 102 and I find that, in the very nature of it, it is impossible to have an exhaustive list of all the offices which are not disqualified. If it is an office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, then there is disqualification. If it is not an office of profit at all, it does not come under the article, and there is no disqualification at all. Even if it is an office of profit, it is open to this House to declare that particular office of profit shall not entail any disqualification. That is all put in a negative manner. Positively we must address ourselves to particular offices of profit and then declare by an Act of Parliament that this office of profit, notwithstanding it being an office of profit, shall not entail disqualification under this article. That is what has been done. It is easy to go the other way and say that the other offices do not come under this disqualification We may say many things But they will not come under article 102 The courts may not agree with what we say. Therefore, there is absolutely no lacuna This will be a perpetual thing We have to go on examining committees from time to time and add them to the list of exemptions, so far as article 102 is concerned Therefore, nobody need worry that the list is not exhaustive In the very nature of article 102, the list can never be exhaustive Even if we sit for hundred years, in the meanwhile some other bodies will come So, we will have to go on doing it perpetually As and when new committees are brought to notice, new amendments will be brought in that notwithstanding article 102 those offices of profit will be exempt

Acharya Kripalani: The very words office of profit" are so vague Some kind of definition must be attached to them A great difficulty has arisen because different persons have interpreted these words differently

Mr. Speaker: That is not possible under the Constitution The words used in the Constitution are

> 'if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder"

Unless we modify the Constitution, we are not competent to say what is an office of profit and what is not an office of profit Therefore, in an Act of Parliament, again we say "this is an office of profit" We can only say that according to us it is an office of profit, but notwithstanding that it will not be a disqualification Unless we amend the Constitution, whatever we do may not be acceptable in a court of law That difficulty can be got over only by amending the Constitution

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: That is exactly the point. When I started my speech, I humbly submitted that it is impossible to define an office of profit coming under article 102. I am sorry, we have not gone into the real meaning The real meaning of the term is understood by every person in its full implications The hon Deputy-Speaker has been kind enough to tell us that, as a matter of fact, in his view it is impossible to make such a comprehensive and exhaustive list But, at the same time, my complaint is, as I was saying, though a defence has been made by the hon Deputy Law Minister, also, I am not satisfied with the defence Why could they not supply the information?

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member may go to another point There is no need to labour this particular point again

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am very sorry, because the real points are not touched I will tell you my difficulty According to the Constitution—

> "if he holds any office of profit other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder"

he will be disqualified So, unless you have got the entire and complete list, no Schedule can be made

Mr Speaker: No, even, if one is placed before the Sub-Committee it is enough for them to look into it and say there is no disqualification

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Then what is the use of making this schedule? It is useless unless you superadd the names of other committees

Mr. Speaker: Very well He has said what he wanted Now the House will decide it

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Of course, the House will decide My humble submission is that so far as this is concerned Parliament must make an effort to say that these offices qualify or disqualify I am quite agreeable to have a list in which all the qualifying offices are given I have no objection to that Now there is information available

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

about 1,300 committees. So far as the other committees are concerned, may I humbly ask, what was the difficulty that the Central Government had in not sending the particulars except apathy, indifference and utter disregard of the orders of this Committee in which the Deputy Speaker and the Law Minister were present? How can they defend it? Are six months not enough to go through the records of the committees? If you want to make an incomplete schedule, that is the end of it. But I would submit that this House will not be discharging its duty unless it makes a full schedule, instead of the existing incomplete schedule, so far as the existing committees are concerned.

I have given notice of amendments to say that we shall have a standing parliamentary committee, which shall go into the rest of the committees. Mine is not a scheme in which I want to throw away this Bill and be done away with it. I do not want it. On the contrary, I want that there may be standing parliamentary committees, as has been proposed by the hon. Deputy-Speaker. To that the hon. Deputy Law Minister made some remarks. The Deputy-Speaker was not satisfied with those remarks, and so he gave us the undertaking that this will be done. Then, there is nothing in the Bill to make it a statutory body.

Mr. Speaker: Then is it not necessary that every office should be scrutinized and declared one way or the other by Parliament?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Quite right

Mr. Speaker: Then what will the standing committee do?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: That is so far as the future committees are concerned.

Mr. Speaker: How can the standing committee decide it?

Sardar Hukam Singh: That can be done by Parliament only. Parliament shall have to decide whether it should disqualify a particular office or not.

Mr. Speaker: So an Act has to be brought.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Certainly.

Mr. Speaker: So each time an Act has to be brought.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Yes, unless declared by law.

Mr. Speaker: So, what I would say is this. Why should this Parliament take upon itself to have a standing committee, if it is the Parliament that has to take a decision? Even when the Opposition introduce a Bill to constitute a body, it is for those persons who bring that body into existence to move this Parliament to exempt them from the disqualification. Why should Parliament take upon itself to decide whether it is a disqualification or not? Let the disqualification be there. The object of the Constitution, as I understand, is, disqualification is the rule. Absence of disqualification is not the rule. That is encroaching upon it and trying to take Member after Member of Parliament and wean him away from the legitimate work of discharging his duties to the House without passion or without interest Therefore, this must be exercised with great care and caution. The floodgates ought not to be thrown open unless somebody or a Member of Parliament moves this House. There ought not to be a Standing Committee. It is opposed to principle. Already we are making an inroad. As many as 600 or 700 memberships have been allowed. I am very chary about it. Otherwise, the Constitution would have said, all those except the few which are disqualified, all the others; normally every man can hold any office of profit; only the holders of these offices cannot be kept here and all the others, he can hold on the surface of the earth in which case Parliamentary rule and independent judgment by the Members of Parliament will be absolutely useless. There would not be anything. Therefore, this is an inroad.

Everybody who holds an office of profit, whoever he may be, is disqualified. He has justify to this House that except this gentleman who is a Member of this Parliament, it is impossible to get any other person to look after that other body, and if he goes to that other body, unless he comes in here, Parliament will suffer. It is only when he makes out that particular case, there will be exemption. It is not the general rule that everybody can hold any office and all the same be a Member here and sell away this Parliament to every other man in the world. I am really surprised how we are trying to throw open the floodgates to everybody who holds an office of profit. We must do this with great care and caution. No Member of Parliament should have one leg here and another leg there, except when Parliament decides. It is a matter for you, for the House to decide. No Standing Committee is proper at all

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (New Delhi): How to solve the problem? This Schedule won't solve the problem. If you give the ruling that no Member of Parliament shall hold office, that is very good. We have no objection. If you want them to hold office, if you want them to go on Committees, at least the position of the Member of Parliament should be made clear. There should not be the Damocles sword hanging all the time because the penalty is very severe I would like to draw your attention to this.

Mr. Speaker: What I would reply to the hon. Lady Member is this. There is no good throwing the blame on the Government. Hon. Members of this House or the other House know in what Committees they are Members. Should they not write to the Joint Committee here: and say, I am a Member of this Committee, therefore exempt that, otherwise I cannot sit in this Committee. They could have well done so. It is the Joint Committee of both the Houses. Why should they not do so? I am really surprised. If they want exemption, let them write.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Even if they were to apply, it is not incumbent on the Joint Committee to exempt. They will exempt according to certain principles which Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava will explain.

Mr. Speaker: It is for the Joint Committee to accept or not to accept. They can bring the information. The point now sought to be made by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava is that the Government have not given a complete list. It was open to the Members to have given lists of Committees in which they are Members.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: In the British Parliament there is a disqualifying list. So the task is simple. Unless you have an exhaustive list, those left out stand disqualified.

Mr. Speaker: It is for the Member to say that I ought not to be disqualified.

Shri Achar: In fact, a communication was sent to every Member. We were asked to state in what committees we are members. Most of the Members got, I have got such a letter. They must have communicated.

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Member concluded?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Not at all. I was submitting that we could not make an exhaustive schedule. That was my complaint. According to article 102(1) I am inclined to think that unless we make a complete schedule, we have not discharged our duty. We were given a mandate in the Joint Committee that we should find out a solution and the solution is only this that we make a schedule. You know, thrice before an attempt has been made in this House and we have given immunities to those who have accepted the membership of Committees. In the public interest alone, if on any committee no Member of Parliament is allowed to go, that will be a very bad thing. That

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is my humble submission. I do not keep to the view that as a matter of fact, going on to a Committee is a bad thing. It is a right thing The Constitution itself has allowed it to be done. Article 102(1) gives the right to Parliament. Parliament can say membership of what committees should be declared unfit and what committees should be declared fit. It is not any personal opinion. The whole Parliament declares.

My point is this. The question everybody put is, what was the yard stick, how do you find whether this committee is disqualified or qualified. I submit, the first thing that we have said is the monetary consideration, as has been the criterion of the Government. Apart from, that, there have been many speeches in this House and the hon. Law Ministers Dr. Ambedkar and Shri C. C. Biswas and others also had to say something at the time when these Bills came on the anvil of the legislature. We know what happened in the House of Commons Select Committee. They said that any office which involves patronage also should be disqualified. That was one of the reasons given by Lord Spence when he was the President of the Select Committee. We further know, as a matter of fact, that this has been the criterion so far as the three Bills were concerned. This is an accepted principle. A Member of Parliament should be debarred from going on a Committee which exercises judicial of executive functions. At the same time, they should not be put in a position of such power and prestige that they can distribute the patronage. This was the principle which we accepted. Even then, I submit, we struck a balance. A balance was necessary to be struck. If you go through all the speeches—I have gone through them—in so far as the three Bills are concerned, you will find, our worthy Deputy Speaker and Shri Ranga and other speakers—have given us guidance. They said, this is the yard stick and we have accepted that. I can understand this. We have not taken it as even if a small patronage is involved or even if a small discretion is involved. We have not adopted that. It is impossible in the nature of things. I cannot conceive of any membership in which no patronage or no influence is there. We have seen that the amount of patronage should not be disproportionate. So far as public interests are concerned, I do feel that there are Committees in which the bureaucrats will have their own say. Members of Parliament if they are the persons who can bamboozle them and who can say in their face that they are going wrong. The Member of Parliament can discharge his duty without fear and do the right thing. In regard to committees on question of labour or sanitation or health or commodity committees or community development, we are members in various committees by virtue of certain resolutions. If we accept the position that no Members can go into them, all the Members will be disentitled to sit in the Parliament and will get unseated. This will be the result. Every Member in his constituency is a member of the Advisory Board in the National Extension Service or community development. In the public interests, I do not for one moment agree that no Member of Parliament should be allowed to go on a Committee. That would mean that we are not really understanding the real meaning of the provision which gave us power. Powers are given for this purpose so that in all matters in the best interests of the country, we must allow Members to go on certain Committees.

You have been pleased to interpret the words "under the Government of India or the Government of any State". These are words which have got a special meaning. These words are not sufficient. If there is a University or a department which gets money from the Government, because the money is got from the House, the money should not be regarded as coming from the Government. The words are "under the Government". In the British Act of 1707 in Queen Anne's time the words were "either under the Crown or from the Crown". There is a great discussion in the books which we have seen and studied. The membership of every committee or commission or corporation which is fully financed by the Government, or partly financed by the Government or even controlled by the Government though not financed by it, is regarded as an office of profit. Government itself may not give the money, but if a department is controlled by Government, service in such a department will come within the mischief of the rule. The rule is a long one and is not covered by the apparent meaning of the words "under the Crown or from the Crown". Otherwise there will be great difficulty.

Many hon. Members have put forward many arguments, but the rule is quite clear to my mind that all civil servants, wherever existing, should not be allowed to come to the legislature, since Government has got influence over them. This is an accepted principle. This principle has not been followed here.

If you look into the British Act you will find a list of the various categories persons serving in which are not allowed to come to Parliament. This is to safeguard the independence of the Members. We are very jealous of the independence of the Members, and from what has fallen from you, you are the most jealous of all, and I am very glad that you take this view, but at the same time I must in all humility submit that even this view is not correct that no person should be allowed to serve on non parliamentary committees unless it is a very rare case. They should be allowed in cases in which independence is not lost and the interests of the country are furthered by their participation in such committees. This is the principle which we have accepted.

Mr. Speaker: I will make my position clear. All that I meant was that each case of an office of profit might be examined by Parliament. That is all that I wanted to say. Let there not be a standing committee to dispose of this matter.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The principle is perfectly right. Each case must come to this Parliament, and Parliament must exercise its mind, but the difficulty is this.

13.33 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The Government of India works through its Secretaries, the Secretaries work through the clerks and the clerks through the chowkidars. Similarly, the sub-committee speaks for the Joint Committee, the Joint Committee speaks for the House and so on it goes on. I am of this view that all the committees given in the list should be scrutinised here. Then I will be most glad. After all, the individual Members of the Committee do not have so much knowledge, do not have the fullest possible knowledge about every committee. We went into every committee, we spent days and days. It was not an easy matter to go through 1,200 committees. Ask the Chairman of the sub-committee, Shri Jaganatha Rao. In respect of every committee we looked into the composition and other matters. There were 15 Members sitting around the table, and we were expressing our views. It may be that if a stronger Member was of the view that a particular committee should be exempted and pressed his view, we all agreed to it. At the last moment, the hon. Law Minister asked: "What have you done with regard to the Bhoodan committees?" He said that after all they did not make such a difference and we agreed. It is a matter of discretion. Once you allow this principle, it is most difficult. There is no balance in which the amount of influence, patronage or power can be measured to decide this way or that. After all, it is a question of discretion.

Many hon. Members have raised the objection that the State committees

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have not been brought in while the parent bodies have been mentioned. They do not know that the State Ministries did not come before us in respect of most of the committees in the States. So, how can we express an opinion with regard to them, and how can we be accused? It passed my comprehension. The argument saying that it was arbitrarily done is not well founded. Not a single hon. Member has come forward to say: "Here is the composition of a particular committee. You have not dealt with it fairly."

We can commit mistakes. The Joint Committee speaks on behalf of the House. If the House does not accept the schedule, any hon. Member is entitled to bring in amendments, but Members complain without having gone into the composition of committees. Some person asked me: "Why have you not included such and such a committee?", as if I was the only Member of the Joint Committee. I was one of the Members. I was overruled. Many others were overruled Even the chairman could be overruled. After all, in a matter like this, it is not right to accuse the Joint Committee or the sub-committee. The best thing would be to find out the nature of the committee concerned and say that it has not been done rightly, and get it done here.

So far as the standing committee is concerned, I am sorry that the hon. Speaker, after expressing his opinion, has gone away.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member should conclude now.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: But I have to convince the House. The proposal of Standing Parliamentary Committee was a proposal made by us in the Committee and it was also accepted in the committee. This committee, Standing Parliamentary Committee is most important in that all committees, whether included in the schedule of the Bill or not, will come within its purview. This will constantly review them. It is not the final authority. The House is the final authority, not even the Government. It will only recommend to Government and Government will come forward with a Bill before the House, because, after all, it is the House which is the deciding factor, nobody else.

It is quite true that in the British Act of 1957 they have evolved another rule, but we cannot have such a rule here. They have said that a mere resolution by the House is sufficient. Unfortunately that is not open to us in view of the requirements of the Constitution which says that Parliament must declare it by law.

Therefore, if you constitute the standing committee, it will go into all committees in future. It can also go into the present committees including those in the schedule. At the same time, my complaint was and is that unless and until we have gone through all the existing committees, we have not done our duty. If you see clause 3(i), it means that membership of all committees is immunised, even those committees which have not been examined. Even without considering them, are we in a position to say that all the committees should be exempted or not This is unfair, this is dishonest. To make a rule that all the committees which have not even been examined will be exempted is not right, is not fair, is not honest. You may say that this parliamentary committee will be appointed within a month, and that it will make its recommendations within six months. Let it report. There will be a complete schedule so far as the exiting committees are concerned. So far as the future committees are concerned, the future will take care of itself and the standing committee will recommend to Government to bring forward the necessary legislation. We cannot in anticipation....

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur) The hon. Member just said that the future will take care of itself, but who will take care of the future Members of Parliament? How will they be guarded against these disqualifications?

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Should there not be a look at the clock also?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I also wanted to bring to the attention of the hon. Member that the first bell was rung by Mr. Speaker 15 minutes ago.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): All that we can do is to give a list of offices which will not disqualify a Member. If we give a list of offices which will disqualify a Member, what prevents the court from saying that they will still be qualified. I would like to know what Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has to say on this point.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: My difficulty is firstly you have rung the bell.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Two bells have already gone before me. The Speaker rang the bell.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: That I did not hear unfortunately.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There have been two before, this was the third one I rang.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: My difficulty is this. I have not seen any person being so disturbed in the course of his arguments. And every Member has been allowed full time. There is no reason why I should not be given full time. If I am irrelevant, I can certainly be stopped, and I shall stop. Even apart from that, I do not know whether it is your ruling that a Member can be disturbed like this, and he cannot be allowed to have his full say on a Bill. So far as Bills are concerned, I understand that the convention is that every Member can take any amount of time he likes, provided he is not irrelevant,. and he does not repeat his arguments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I was adopting all the time what the hon. Member himself had done while he was in the Chair; he had looked to the allotment of time that had been made by this House and by the committee.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Even that was not right. When I was in the Chair, yesterday, I did not disturb any Member. Even if I had been wrong, you must be right.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not arguing that. I am not disturbing. But the Speaker had perhaps a time-limit in his mind, and he had rung the bell. And that was before I took the Chair. He told me that perhaps Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava would be finishing soon. Perhaps, he had not a correct idea.

The hon. Member may take a few minutes more, but some end has to come.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If I am put many questions, am I to be so disrespectful as not to answer those questions? If the Speaker asks some questions, and you, Sir, take some time, and other Members also take some time is all that time to be counted against me?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As I had suggested earlier in this House, these interruptions and these interpellations are also part of the speech.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I would submit that the time may be extended.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I would respectfully ask you that you may give us a particular time within which we must finish, so that we may cover all the important points.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How long would the hon. Member take?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I shall require at least one hour more, because I have not touched the Bill, as you have seen. I am sure you would have looked into my minute of dissent. I have not touched even one

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category of those who have been exempted, and I have been very bitter, as you know, against all those categories.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: The time may be extended.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: You may fix that I should finish in such and such time, though, I think, it is not according to the rules; every Member has a right to speak on a Bill for as long as he likes. I am ready to obey your order, if you fix any time, I shall finish within that time, whether actually the speech is finished or not.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is always invited to every Business Advisory Committee meeting.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Therefore, I said that ten hours should be given. Yesterday, what happened was that the whole argument was collapsing, and then I requested the Chair to call me. I was not willing to speak yesterday. But when I found that whole thing was collapsing, I stood up.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: There were so many Members who wanted to speak.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: They were not here. I know the hon. Member herself was not here.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: I may not have been here. But others were here.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: You may fix some time, so that I may finish all the important points.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would allow him, but other hon. Members are impatient. I would not myself impose any limit on the hon. Member.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It is very kind of you.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: He has already taken about an hour and thirty minutes.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: In view of the fact that Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava is a very important Member, as far as this subject is concerned, and he has studied this subject, we are very anxious to hear him. Every time we put questions, it is not with any idea of interruption but with the idea of clearing our own minds,—because this is a very important subject which is going to affect each one of us—therefore, I would request that you may let him have the full time, but then five hours more must be given for this debate.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I second what the hon. lady Member has said.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Shri D. C Sharma has already had his say.

Shri D. C. Sharma: When I was speaking yesterday, the hon. Member who was in the Chair then never rang the bell, and he never interrupted me.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Seriously, we request that time should be extended.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In return, if Shri D. C. Sharma had been in the Chair, he would not have rung the bell.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I do not accuse you of cutting short my speech. I know you are very indulgent and every time I speak, you never ring the bell. But in regard to resolutions, we know that there is a time-limit of fifteen minutes within which one has to finish.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, the hon. Member may resume his speech.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I was submitting that the interpretation of article 102(1) as given by the Law Minister, who was previously incharge of the Bill was as follows. He said in his opening remarks:

> "Hon. Members are aware that under the Constitution, there is an article providing for disqualification; under article 102(1), the holders of certain offices of profit need not be entitled to become Members of Parliament. That article also contains a provision enabling Parliament to remove the disqualification for *specific offices*.".

That was his view, that in regard to every office, Parliament must declare its view. If Parliament *goes out* of its way to scrutinize through every office, you can yourself visualise how much time will be taken. So, where is the wonder if in 1941 this matter about disqualification came up before the British House of Commons but they decided the question only in 1957? They took such a long time.

Here also, every time a Bill came up before this House, it was practically put off, and an immunity Bill was passed saying that Government would bring forward another Bill. It was under these circumstances that the Committee on Offices of Profit was appointed, and that committee submitted its report. Now, six months is not a good enough time for getting information about all the committees in the whole of India. I quite agree that there may be delay for a few months. But, as I am submitting, within one month, this standing parliamentary committee should be appointed and within six months, it must be able to finish its labours, so far as the existing committees are concerned. That is not too much. I am rather intrigued by the statement of the Deputy Minister when he says that it is impossible. I cannot understand. I am very sorry. Even you, Sir, were pleased to say that it is difficult to define what an office of profit is. On that point, I agree. The term 'office of profit' is very difficult to define. It is very difficult to weigh what makes an office of profit. But getting the material in regard to the composition of the various committees is not at all a difficult thing.

Today, when the Speaker has spoken, and you, Sir, have spoken in this way, I am sure within two months, all the material will be gathered, and the standing parliamentary committee can go into that matter immediately and then report to Government, and Government can bring forward a supplementary Bill so that the whole thing may be complete.

As I submitted earlier, I feel very strongly on this point, that we cannot pass clause 3(i) which says that all committees are unobjectionable which do not come within the schedule. We are not justified in doing so, without seeing the composition of the various committees. It will be a fraud upon the Constitution. I am using not a very strong word, because this very word was used by Dr. Ambedkar on an occasion like this.

Therefore, I am submitting that it is very necessary that there should be a standing parliamentary committee appointed, and *within six months, it* must conclude its labours, and then Government should bring forward a supplementary Bill saying that such and such offices would be qualified while others would be disqualified. If Government bring forward a complementary or supplementary Bill, after the standing parliamentary committee has gone into the whole matter and submitted its report, then I shall be quite content. That is the whole scheme that I envisage.

Now, I come to the particular offices and categories of offices which have been enumerated in the Bill. So far as the Bill is concerned, there are a few offices only which they have touched; otherwise, they have not touched anything at all. This is the

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complaint which I made before the Joint Committee, and this is the complaint which I make here also.

What about the pensioners? There is nothing in this Bill in regard to them. What about honorary magistrates? Again, what about the servants of the local bodies? They will all hang in the balance; they will never know what their fate is, whether they will be able to stand for election and become Members. After all, when a Bill of this nature is being brought forward, they must know clearly what their position is. The law must be quite clear, and they must know where they stand. What is the use of insisting on them after they are elected to go through election petitions, to go through the trials and ribulations of election petitions?

My submission is that what is mentioned in this Bill is not exhaustive. Only a few categories have been mentioned and have been exempted. But all the cases have not been examined, in spite of my submission before the Joint Committee.

I have no objection so far as items (a) and (b) in clause 3 are concerned. As far as item (c) is concerned, I have not given notice of any amendment, and though some Members have objected, I, for one, am not so insistent that they may not be exempted.

But in regard to the home guards, I am very sorry I cannot say the same. I know that the committee of which I was the chairman could not thoroughly go into this question, and, therefore, we exempted home guards. But we made a mistake there. After I heard you, Sir, in the Joint Committee, I changed my opinion. As a matter of fact, when I came to know from Shri Mahanty that home guards are just like police people, and they are out to see that they are called—not that they are called in emergencies, just like the members of the Territorial Army—that they are ordinary members of the public, and they are called for emergencies etc. to maintain security etc., I changed my opinion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It apears that the recommendations of the Bhargava Committee were much too powerful to be disregarded; so the Joint Committee also followed them.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I myself submitted that we were wrong then. After all, it will be foolhardiness on my part, it will be cussedness on my part, if I go on stocking to what I said in that committee; I am convinced after hearing you that I was wrong You, Sir, were responsible for this. You explained in the Joint Committee what these home guards were. Shri Mahanty also told us what they were I shall not be a good Member of Parliament, if I do not change my opinion, after hearing the Deputy-Speaker.

My humble submission is that home guards are part of the police. They are nothing but policemen. After all, what are policemen? They are our protectors. I love all policemen; I love all the Army people. They are not bad people. Similarly, the Vice Chancellors are good. The judges of the Supreme Court, are good. We do not allow them to become Members of Parliament. It is not a question of their goodness or badness. The point is whether they are such as to be allowed to come to Parliament on account of the fact that they are civil servants. They are practically executive or judicial or other Government officers. They are practically of those who are part of the Government and as such, they will not be independent Members of this House. That is the real trouble.

So far as Home Guards are concerned, I am clear in my mind that we made a mistake in that Committee, and I do not want to repeat that mistake.

Shri Dasappa: What is the profit that the Home Guards get?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: In the Committee we saw the Act under which these Home Guards were constituted. At the same time, we heard the experience of hon. Members. But so far as the question whether they get any profit is concerned, I do not remember. The hon. Member may kindly go through the Act. As a matter of fact, at that time, we considered it. Therefore, I appointed a Minute of Dissent saying that they should not be exempt.

About Sheriff, there was some criticism, but after hearing the hon. Law Minister, who in his speech in the house gave a full description of what a Sheriff is,—he is in charge of prisoners, of a court of sessions, he is an officer of the High Court, he is an officer pure and simple exercising the powers of a public servant—I would be the last person to exempt him. I know what he will do, and I know what the Home Guards will do, how they will vote. As regards the Territorial Army, it may be asked whether they will go against the Minister of Defence if necessary? At the same time, there may be people among them who are more patriots than soldiers. Therefore, an exception might be made. But in regard to the Sheriff, I am quite clear in my mind that it will be a very great mistake to allow him to come to this House.

Similarly about the Vice-Chancellor. I had something to say in the Committee of office on this matte., and I stick to that opinion. I have heard it said that he does not get any money from the Government. Whose money is it that he gets? Rs. 5 crores have been given to the Banaras Hindu University by the University Grants Commission. Whose money is it? Is that not controlled by Government? Therefore, my humble submission is that there is no difference between a constable and a Vice-Chancellor from this standpoint, that he represents the Government and is a public and civil servant of the Government.

Acharya Kripalani: That is true in the Banaras Hindu University.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: For which Acharya Kripalani was once being proposed as Vice-Chancellor. Shri D. C. Sharma was also said to be one of the candidates sometime. These are all personalities whom we can worship, but we cannot allow them to enter the sacred precincts of this House in that capacity, because by the very nature of the duties of Members of Parliament, they must be independent of the Government. A Vice-Chancellor will not have the heart to speak a word against Dr. K. L. Shrimali if he is here.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Thiruvella): He is always expected to be independent of the Government

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: He is expected to be. Yet, we have made this provision. There are two kinds of Vice-Chancellors. One category is of persons as are not appointed or removable by Government. If anything is said in respect of them, I can understand it. But in regard to the rest of them, other persons like Pro-Chancellors etc., we have not said anything. The Vice-Chancellor is a man who is entirely devoted to his University and its affairs. Why take him from there?

Similarly about those persons in charge of corporations. Why trouble them to come here? They are doing their work very well for the nation. There is no diffrence, there is no halo about Members of Parliament. All are doing the same work. There are many people outside this House whom we worship. We respect Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Shri Jaya Prakash Narain, very much. Acharya Kripalani was not here before. So that would make no difference so far as

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one's position in life is concerned. The yardstick is there. According to the yardstick, whoever comes within that, whether he is good, bad or indifferent, whether God, or demi-God or human being, let him not enter the sacred portals of this House. This is the basis on which Vice-Chancellors should not be allowed to come in.

Similar is the case with the Syndicates and Executive Committees and so on. It appears that all these persons are exercising certain powers of appointment, certain powers of patronage, and they are too busy with their work. This is not a matter where Members are to be educated by anybody. Members are supposed to know all things. If they want the opinion of educational experts, they can examine them. There is no difficulty whatsoever.

As regards members of delegations etc., I have no objection provided the period is fixed. You know that under article 101(4) of the Constitution, we have fixed the period up to which Members of Parliament can be absent from the House before his seat is declared vacant. He should not be sent for more than 60 days according to that provision. Sixty days are to be counted according to 101(4) article Therefore, my humble submission is that the period should be fixed. It may even be that the period may be fixed as six months or whatever is sufficient. But if he is to go away from here for all the years in which Parliament sits, what is the use of having that Member of Parlament. The constituency will be denied its rights. Therefore, the period must be fixed. It may be six months or whatever the House wishes.

So far as the question of chairman, director, member etc. is concerned, I have said enough and to spare. So far as adviser is concerned, I have also had my say. But so far as this adviser affair is concerned, it is too bitter a pill to swallow. I cannot swallow it. It means conferring on the Ministers powers of nepotism and favouritism. The real difficulty when we come to enact this Bill is this. On the one side, the Ministers feel intrigued that their powers of nepotism and favouritism are taken away. On the other, Members are not happy because they cannot be Members of Parliament and exercise these powers. Both sides are not happy. Whom are we favouring? For whose sake is the Bill being proceeded with? It is for the benefit of the public so that their representatives may be independent. Therefore, we are doing this unpleasant duty. So if we do not like it, what is the use of bringing this forward? Scrap this Bill.

As regards these advisers, if a committee is appointed, I can understand it; it is an impersonal thing. But imagine a single person being appointed as adviser. He will be the conscience-keeper of the Minister. People will flock to him as the giver of all favour. It may be within his rights or not to give favours. But he will be criticised. The Minister will also be criticised. So in the interest of both of them, this provision should be taken away.

So far as the advisory body is concerned, it will be either statutory or non-statutory. There is no occasion for a third kind of advisory body.

Shri Dasappa: In the U.K. have advisory bodies been disqualified?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: There are no advisers in the U.K. Act. At the same time, I may tell the hon. Members that in the U.K. they have gone further. They have limited the number of Ministers; there cannot be more than 70 votes of them in the House of Commons of 612 people. Even among the Ministers, only 30 or 40 can sit and give their votes. We have not gone to that length here, because it is unnecessary. Otherwise,—if I had any such suspicion in my mind that the Government are out to see that we, Members of Parliament, are are not rightly treated, I am bound to see that I will limit the number of Ministers. In limiting the number of votes of Ministers, I want to have a majority and a very large majority of non-official votes so that we may be able to out-vote the Government wherever necessary. They should convince us and persuade us to give our votes. Otherwise, the rule should be that the Members of Parliament who have come here representing various constituencies should have the last word on the subject. There have been occasions when even in this Parliament, we dictated to the Ministers. It is the right thing to do, that this House should dictate to the Ministers to have a particular policy or follow a particular course. It is wrong that whatever a Minister dictates should be the law of the land.

So far as part-time officers are concerned, Shri D. C. Sharma—who is not here—said something to the effect that this House would be a House of part-timers and all that. Fortunately, the hon. Law Minister has acceded to the advice of the House to take away that provision. Persons who are paid by Government can no longer become Members of the House. That category has been removed. The only category that remains is the one mentioned in (j). Regarding this, I may say this. There is a proverb in Punjab about *lambardars* which decency does not allow me to repeat here. It is good that we do not allow *lambardars*, *malguzars*, *patels*, *deshmukhs* etc., to come to the House So far as *malguzars* are concerned, I do not know what is really in the mind of the hon. Minister when he put this provision. The *malguzars* are persons who pay land revenue in the Punjab. As such, I think there is no question of doing anything about them. Every person who owns land can come here in this House. What is the difficulty?

As regards this, Ch. Ranbir Singh had something to say and he had a dig at me also, that I was once a *lambardar* and that was, according to him, sufficient to say that *lambardars* are exempted. I may submit on a point of personal explanation that I happened to be the sole proprietor of a village and as such, there was no other person who could be appointed *lambardar*. So technically, I was a *lambardar*. I resigned from that some 7 years ago when I came to the House because I knew that lambardars cannot stand. I am not against lambardars. These people are not inherently bad so far as this House is concerned. What is a lambardar? He is a person who is the henchman of the thanedar or the tahsildar and the civil officers. I have yet to see an independent lambardar living in the village and discharging his functions and duties there. You may be a lambardar who may be sitting here in the chair; you may be a lambardar who is not concerned at all with these particular duties.

14 hrs.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not one.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: But there are many whom I can see. So far as status is concerned, they have a very high status in society. I am not against those things. There are a few who would come otherwise also. But, at the same time. they can leave the lambardarship also.

So far as the lambardars, the patels and the deshmukhs are concerned, we had full details before the committee. My first charge is, why did we not go through these details; why did we not decide the question as to who should be exempted and who should not be exempted. Why did we leave it to the scrutinising officer or the election officer presiding over an election petition? It should have been decided then and there. I asked the Committee to go into the question. In the first committee we had some excuse because we were not furnished with

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the details. But, here we were furnished with the details and yet we failed in our duty.

After all, these men get some commission for doing the collection work. When a person gets some commission or is paid some salary, all the same, he gets payment from Government: out of Government money he gets something back by way of commission. As a matter of fact, he is just like any other government servant. Any other person appointed to realise government revenue shall be a government servant. I do not see any difference between a salaried person and a person who gets some commission. The Registrars also get some commission; they get some fees.

Again, these words have been added here—'who does not discharge any police functions'. I have got a very great complaint against the addition of these words, the idea being that we do not know what police functions are. They have not been defined anywhere. I have seen the Criminal Procedure Code—every word of it—and it is not defined there. A 'person in charge of a police station' is defined there; all other persons are defined; 'a police officer' is defined; but not a person discharging police functions'. We do not know what police functions are.

I have heard the story of a person who came and said: this camel is for sale. When asked, what was the price, he said Rs. 5; but, it must be sold with a dead cat around the neck. Then, what is the price? He said the price of the cat was Rs. 500/-. Therefore, if any person wanted to purchase it he must purchase both: and, therefore, the price would be Rs. 505. The camel could not fetch that price.

These lambardars should never be excluded by this exemption because they can in no manner be said to be discharging police functions. They help the police; they are the henchmen of the police. In every national movement it was the lambardars who gave evidence against the patriots; they were the persons who told the police that this man did this or that man did it.

According to the rulings of the High Courts and various other courts, they are people in whose presence even a confession is bad. As a matter of fact, these people are parties to the fabrication of evidence etc. They are helpless before the police; they cannot do anything before the police; they are the henchmen of the police. If you allow them to come here what will be the result? Why are you anxious to bring them here? Let them resign the lambardarship in favour of their younger brothers and then seek election. It is the right of every person to become a Member. But what is the use of allowing these persons who though not discharge police functions strictly speaking are enforced upon to help the police. My humble submission is that it is not right to allow these persons here—to become Members of Parliament.

I am very thankful to you, Sir, for having kindly given me these last 15 or 20 minutes in which I could say something about these officers. I am also thankful to the Speaker for when he was here he did not bring it to my notice that, as a matter of fact, he had rung the bell. Then, perhaps, I would have submitted the same thing; and if he did not want to allow me time I would have sat down. Therefore, I am thankful for I had a full say about what I had to say.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as the debate of yesterday and today has revealed, this is a very complicated and intricate subject. The best of minds have gone into it and they are, I think, not definite as to what we should do.

This Bill is very important for the Members of this House for two reasons. We are anxious to preserve the independence and freedom of the

Members; we do not want the Members to be corrupted. At the same time, we want that the Members who are called upon to serve on certain committees should be able to serve on those commitees with freedom, without any fear that they would be incurring disqualification, and the penalty attached, particularly so because the penalty attaching to disqualification is very severe.

Our Constitution lays down in article 102 the principle that no Member of the Parliament should hold any "office of profit." It is a good principle, we have accepted it. But, in the actual working of it, we have been finding difficulties. Therefore, as Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has already pointed out, repeatedly, for two or three years we had to pass the Prevention of Disqualification Acts, in 1950, 1951 and in 1953. Ultimately there was a consensus of opinion in the House that this needed proper clarification. We wanted the position to be clearly and unambiguously declared so that we would know where we stand and how we are to function. The Bhargava Committee was appointed and this Bill is a result of the recommendations of that Committee.

I feel that the position has not been further clarified; the position is yet as unclear as before. The principle that a Member of Parliament should not hold an office of profit is, I say, good and wholesome. This is an extension of the principle that the Legislature and the Executive should be separated. If we do not adhere to this principle, if we disregard this principle, we can take away the independence of the Members and we can corrupt them; we can lure them into offices. That is one side of the question.

On the other side, a Member of Parliament who holds the position of a member of a committee, holds an executive position in the sense that he has power, prestige and influence. He can exercise that power, prestige and influence for himself and for his friends during an election. There are therefore two aspects of corrupt practice on one side a Member can indulge in or the other hand the Government can corrupt him. Hence, it is a very wholesome principle which we want to retain. But the difficulty arises in actual implementation of the principle.

The other side of the picture is that ours is a new State. We have declared it as a 'Welfare State', as a 'Socialist State'. The public sector is expanding increasingly. As the public sector is growing and expanding, there is a very great demand that Members of Parliament should serve on these committees in order to see that these public sector institutions are working properly. As Shri Bharucha said, large amounts of our money are going to be expended throughout the public sector. How can we then say that Members of Parliament should not at all serve on them? This is a very legitimate and cogent argument which we cannot possibly ignore.

I can understand if in this Parliament, an august body, the supreme authority in this country, we make a declaration that no Member of Parliament should serve on any of these committees. It is a clear position; it is a good position for all of us. But, if we want that our Members should serve on such committees, then, we should make the position so clear that the Members should not feel that the sword of Damocles is all the time hanging over their heads. Therefore, the main issues before us are these. The first is, how to safeguard the Members from the mischief of incurring the disqualification which entails very severe punishment if we want them to serve on committees, at the same time, maintaining the independence of the Members and preventing them from being corrupted.

Secondly, what are the committees on which the Members could serve if

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the nation needs the services of particular Members both inside the Legislature as well as on the executive of those bodies outside? What is the minimum number of such committees?

The third issue is, what constitutes an office of profit? Yesterday, I had raised this question as to what is an office of profit, we were then told by the Law Minister that it is very difficult to define an office of profit. If we say that the criterion is remuneration, then I can understand that we fix a certain amount and say that so much of compensatory allowance would not come under the mischief of the office of profit; it is a simple definition; it is something tangible and clear and can be comprehended. But the conception of the office of profit is wider. It means not only remuneration but influence, power, position or patronage etc. These terms are so vague that it is difficult to define what is influence or power. However much clarity you may try to bring into it, still it eludes you. You yourself, Sir, expressed this view a few minutes ago. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has admitted this in his note of dissent. Many others have expressed the same view. In spite of the best efforts for the last nine months of the Joint Committee and the Sub-Committee, where experienced Members like Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava were there; you were yourself there. In spite of that you have not been able yet to draw up a list whereby you can draw a clear line and say that these committees should incur the mischief of office of profit and these should not. Sir, you yourself said a few minutes ago that you felt that even in ten years this task of drawing up a complete schedule cannot be completed. The task is stupendous. If you take only remuneration as the criterion then it is something clear and simple. Difficulty arises only when the concept of influence and position etc. is added to it. At the same time I do feel that mere criterion of remuneration for defining office of profit would not be correct, because through influence one can corrupt people as also through power and patronage. Therefore, it is very difficult to come to any clear decision and to pass a Bill which will cover all these aspects. What is the result of the very sincere effort on the part of a number of very clever and top brains of this country? The result is that we have a two page Bill. Appended to this Bill are a large number of minutes of dissent, five in all, covering about 20 pages, written by the most influential Members of the Committee. In the report itself it is admitted that in spite of their best efforts, they could not draw up an exhaustive list. They scrutinised about 1200 committees and were able to draw up some kind of a list which is incomplete and unsatisfactory.

Now, take even the text of the Bill. The most important clause of this two-page Bill is clause 3. In this clause, objections has been raised both yesterday and today by hon. Members and also by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava to sub-clauses (c), (d), (e), (f), (h), (i) and (j). We have in this clause sub-clauses (a) to (j) only. Objection has thus been taken to almost all these sub-clauses. Very serious objection has been taken also to the Schedule. It was pointed out yesterday and today and even in our Parliamentary Party meeting—if I am not divulging any secret—that the Schedule was very unsatisfactory Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has explained that while the Joint Committee was drawing up the Schedule, it did select the Committees according to certain principles. Those Committees, that gave their Members a great deal of patronage and power, came under the disqualified list; others came under the exempted list. I earnestly believe that the members tried to do a sincere job. But what is the result? Schedules have been drawn up which appear to be iniquitous and arbitrary. Shri Dasappa has pointed out that the regional transport authority (a body where there is enough scope for corruption and influence), in this schedule, is debarred for membership only in five states. In the rest of the States they are not debarred. It is so in the case of other committees too. Committees performing similar kind of function have been included in the Schedules for disqualification and the others left out. One incurs the disqualification while the other does not. Now, take the text itself. In the text, the Vice-Chancellor is allowed to become a Member of Parliament. If a Vice-Chancellor is allowed to become a Member of Parliament, why not the Chairman of the University Grants Commission? As it is, the Chairman of the UGC is debarred while the Vice-Chancellor is allowed.

Shri Hajarnavis: No, no.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: You have not debarred but in practice it will be. If you go and get the interpretation of the courts, you will find it out. I have got that matter checked up by a lawyer and so I am telling this to you.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has got enough experience of judicial interpretation now.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Unfortunately, having fought my election petition case for seven years, I have got enough experience.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is what I was referring to.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Our object was to get a clear Bill which will help to retain the independence of the Members and also allow some of them to function on the Committees. The position was ambiguous and not clear. Therefore, we took up this task. After all these efforts, the picture is not yet clear and it still remains ambiguous. What are the implications of this Bill? You know very well, Sir, being a lawyer Member of Parliament and also having fought an election petition, what the position is. I may also point out that the penalty attached to disqualification is very severe. A few day back Dr. Parmar's election was set aside on the ground that in one of his remote polling stations one person had something to do with the military—it was later on discovered—and on that ground he attracted the disqualification. The whole election was therefore set aside.

Our election is a stupendous task. The British Parliamentary election is an easier task, it is a smaller constituency geographically and there are smaller number of voters whom the candidate has to approach. We have to approach five lakhs of voters. We have to go from place to place and cover distant areas. I had been to Dr. Parmar's constituency in Himachal Pradesh and I know what it is like. It is spread over remote regions where few people live. The people are mostly illiterate and it is very difficult to fight an election in such an area. Suppose in such an area a constituency has over 500 polling stations, the candidate has to find 500 election agents then such mistakes take place quite inadvertently. But over such a small mistake, the entire election can be set aside. Not only that. The candidate also stands disqualified for six years. He cannot be a Member this term and he cannot fight an election for the next time.

I will also give you my own experience about legal interpretations. Both Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and myself are Members of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration. There are always three Members of Parliament on that Committee. When the first Bill was being passed, I think Dr. Ambedkar was the law minister,—he was an eminent lawyer—he examined the position and told us that there was nothing to worry and that we would not incur disqualification. Still we had our own doubts, our own legal interpreters were telling us that the position was wrong. We then got the legal interpretation from the Law Ministry which was officially sent to

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the Rehabilitation Finance Administration. The ministry also gave a similar opinion that we would not incur disqualification. Even then we were not satisfied. We got it again checked by our lawyers and also by Shri N. C. Chatterjee. We found the position to be altogether defective. We would have been disqualified but for the exemption extended to the Committee's membership. The lawyers also told us that this interpretation of the Law Ministry was a scrap of paper as far as the Courts were concerned. The interpretation had to be given by the Courts only.

Now let us take remuneration. What is the legal interpretation of "remuneration"? Just now Shri Thakur Das Bhargava gave an instance where members of a Committee who drew an allowance of Rs. 5 stood disqualified. Even if they had not drawn that amount but were merely entitled to draw the amount they could have incurred disqualifiaction. As long as one is entitled to draw an allowance it is immaterial whether the allowance is drawn or not the person is liable to stand disqualified.

Then let us take the case of Shrimati Hansa Mehta. She was the Vice-Chancellor and when she became a Member of Parliament she was drawing her pay not from the Government but from the University. But the Government was the appointing authority and that is why she incurred the mischief of the office of profit. Yesterday, Shri Bharucha gave us the instances of some honorary doctors giving service to the Government and coming under the mischief of office of profit. Therefore, it can be seen that office of profit is a very vague term and it is difficult to keep away from the mischief. Therefore, we had demanded that it should be clearly defined. Some principle should be clearly laid down so that we know where we stand. That we find has not been done in spite of the best efforts of the Joint Committee, so much so many Members of the Joint Committee have even sent strong notes of dissent. The text of the Bill is defective, and as far as the Schedule is concerned, though the makers of the Schedule were guided by certain principles and they tried to select the Committees according to certain standards, in actual fact the final list that has come to us today looks arbitrary and iniquitous. Therefore, neither in the matter of Schedule nor in the matter of the text of the Bill have we clarified the position. We have not made the position any better than before We wanted to preserve the independence of Members I do not know whether we are actually preserving the independence of Members or giving protection to Members who want to serve on any committee. I for one think that if Parliament today, here and now, decides that we should not serve on any committee that would be much better for us. If we have to serve on any committee, we should know where we stand.

As I said, Sir, in both these matters clarity has not been achieved. This bill has not achieved the object for which all this labour was undertaken The Joint Committee considered it for nearly a whole year, but we are where we were. That is why, Sir, I had pleaded that the Bill may be withdrawn and brought back again after further consideration. Shri Thakurdasji has found fault with us of demainding the withdrawal of the Bill. I am not against the Bill as such, but I want the Bill to be very carefully reconsidered. Even if the bill is not withdrawn we should take some more time to go through it carefully. If we must append a Schedule to the Bill let us have all the necessary information which will enable us to have a complete Schedule. Only a complete and exhaustive Schedule can make the position clear and unambiguous. If we do not want the members to serve on any Committee the Parliament should make such a declaration here and now. That would be a more acceptable position as far as I am concerned. But if the members have to serve on any committee, then the position should be made clear and unambiguous so that no one is exposed to the risk of being disqualified. Therefore, Sir, this Bill is full of defects. This Bill needs very major changes in order to be acceptable to the House. Therefore, though I had a great desire to support the Bill I can only give it a very qualified support; but I would again submit Sir that we must go very carefully through the Bill before it is passed.

Shri Tangamani: Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Sir, enough has been said about the merits and demerits of this Bill, and Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has developed his point of view to a considerable extent. I shall confine myself to some three or four aspects. I would like to ask Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava whether by including in the Schedule some offices as offices which will not be exempted we can bind any court of law to decide accordingly. With respect, Sir, I have to submit that article 102 clearly says that any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State is disqualified.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The court shall have no power to declare. It is for either the President or the Election Commissioner if he has already become a member and for the Presiding Officer if he is seeking election. The courts do not come in except in election petitions and then they will be bound by the law which we will pass.

Shri Tangamani: Supposing there is an election petition; even if we say that it is an office of profit and on that basis the election petition has been filed, what prevents the Election Tribunal, what prevents the High Court, what prevents the Supreme Court from saying that it is not an office of profit? We cannot bind the Supreme Court Supposing we say in the Schedule that the following 137 offices are offices of profit and anyone holding a post as a member in one case or a Chairman or Secretary in some other case will be disqualified and these offices cannot be exempted, if a candidate who holds a particular office included in those 137 offices has been returned and there is an election petition,—the Election Tribunal probably might dismiss it—what prevents the Supreme Court from saying that although it is included in the Schedule as an office of profit actually it is not an office of profit? Office of profit, as Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava himself knows, is a thing which has not been defined by the Supreme Court. We are not called upon to say, enumerate or illustrate those offices which are offices of profit. All that we are given power is to say that these are the offices which, although they are offices of profit, we think it wise to exempt That is the point which I was trying to bring out, and I know that Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava did not have enough time to go into this point. This is a real difficulty which I have That is why I feel that although the matter was referred to the Joint Committee....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava conceded that he had his full say, but the hon. Member now complains that he did not have enough time.

Shri Tangamani: On this particular point he could only make a casual reference. If he had got two full hours, probably he would have developed that particular point also; but I did not have the benefit of that.

Any way, Sir, that is my first objection. Having said that, I would like to point out that the motion for reference of the Bill to a Joint Committee was adopted, as the House knows, on the 16th December, 1957. The Joint Committee held nearly 16 sittings. A Sub-Committee was also appointed. The Sub-Committee, as the hon. Deputy Minister was pleased to point out, was helped not only by

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the Central Government but also by the State Governments, and I have nothing to say against either the Sub-Committee or the Joint Committee. All that I would like to say is that after nearly a year when the Bill comes to this House we find that we have not advanced an inch; we remain where we were in December 1957.

Therefore, in the light of the discussion, my submission would be that instead of trying to polish this particular Bill it may be better to think about making certain amendments in the Constitution itself where we can define what an office of profit is. Having defined what is an office of profit whether it is on the basis of remuneration or power, if exemption power is given to this Parliament and the Parliament exercises its powers, then we will know where we stand. Now, even after this Bill is passed it will be very difficult to make out which will be an office of profit and which is not an office of profit.

Sir, the purpose which really prompted a large number of Members of this House is that Members of this House as Members of Parliament must be free from the corroding influence of the Executive; there must be real independence of legislature Therefore, they said that a Member should be safeguarded from corruptibility to do his duty to the electorate in public interest by not being put in a profitable position by the Government of the day where he would gain either in terms of money or power and be tempted to carry out Government's aim as against those of public interest That was the first one The second one was: "Where his duties as a Member of Parliament which should have a first claim on his time would suffer as a result of his acceptance of a position on a statutory or non-statutory body in an executive capacity." These were the two objections.

I would like to point out how in the case of those offices which are not exempted—mentioned in the Schedule—these two will not apply. The second point is that the duties of the Member of Parliament will run counter to his duties if he is made a Member of a particular office where he may have to devote whole time. Just to illustrate, I will give only three or four instances. In the Schedule, Part I, page 5, there is the Employees' State Insurance Corporation established under section 3 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. The name may sound very bombastic and may give the impression it is a Corporation. But it is not a Corporation which is managing a big industry. The Employees' State Insurance Act was passed in 1948 and the Employees' State Insurance Scheme is being introduced to various units. It is now being extended to various units throughout the country. This Corporation is more in the nature of a tripartite body. In this tripartite body there are representatives of Government, representatives of labour and there are also representatives of employers. This body meets probably once a year, and, even then whatever this body decides is not accepted by Government It is more in the nature of an advisory body It is through this body that for the first time the representatives of labour come to know what is happening in the Corporation Apart from that the function of this Corporation is nil But I find that when the Employees' State Insurance Corporation was established, any member of this Corporation would be disqualified from continuing as a Member of Parliament.

I will give another instance There is the Dock Labour Board at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. The Dock Labour Board also is more in the nature of a tripartite body There are the representatives from the Government, and from the trade unions Under the Act, these bodies are created, and really, the supreme authority under the Act is the chairman. The chairman is the executive officer. All that the representatives of labour can do in this particular Board is to present the case of the workers. The only advantage they have its, they can present the case of the workers and discuss it, and they can also to some extent influence the decisions. Ultimately, the carrying out of the decisions is done by the chairman. I find that the members of the Dock Labour Board including the chairman will come under this disqualification.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does the hon. Member like to continue his speech?

Shri Tangamani: I may require ten more minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then he can continue his speech the next day. We may now take up discussion on the Annual Report of the Hindustan Steel Private Ltd.

14·32 hrs.

DISCUSSION *RE*: HINDUSTAN STEEL PRIVATE LTD.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): I beg to move:

> "That the Annual Report of the Hindustan Steel Private Ltd., 1956-57, laid on the Table of the House on the 26th March, 1958, be taken into consideration".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Sir, I should first like to point out that we had expected the courtesy of the Minister being present when we are discussing something that concerns his Ministry. We hope that we will not therefore be subject to platitudes in view of the fact of his absence, when we have to offer our criticism.

(At this stage, Sardar Swaran Singh entered the House)

Shri Nath Pai: I am very happy. I welcome the Minister.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): I have come according to schedule.

Shri Nath Pai: I should like to begin by stating the reasons that goaded me to demand this debate. The first reason is, the importance steel occupies in our economy, the pivotal role steel has to play in the economy of a country which is striving and struggling to make the journey from semi-feudalism to industrialization. This important and key role steel has to play is very adequately reflected in the second Five Year Plan. The Plan states:

> "The expansion of the iron and steel industry has obviously the highest priority since more than any other industrial product. The levels of production of these materials determine the tempo of the progress of the economy as a whole".

The Plan further states:

> "Conditions in India are favourable for securing the production of iron and steel at costs which are low in comparison with those of other countries".

These are remarks to which I shall be referring again and again during my brief speech.

Steel thus is the pivot round which the wheel of industrial progress is to turn. In concrete terms, out of a total allocation of Rs. 750 crores for all the industrial projects in the public sector, steel has been allocated Rs. 510 crores. That is, in simple arithmetic, steel alone is to consume 66 per cent of the money we are going to spend in the public sector in industrial projects

The second reason, apart from this importance of steel in our economy, is the phenomenal rise, the soaring rise, in the prices of these estimates. The second Five Year Plan put the cost of all the three plants at Rs. 353 crores, the break-up being Rs. 128 crores for Rourkela, Rs. 110 crores for Bhilai and Rs. 115 crores for Durgapur. This amounts, as I said earlier, to an aggregate of Rs. 353 crores. If we take into

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consideration the reappraisal, we are told that the costs may be Rs. 495 crores. It means there is an increase of Rs. 157 crores over the original estimates. I do not think that it is a small or negligible increase. It is an increase of 45 per cent.

In the case of Rourkela alone, the estimates have soared up from Rs. 128 crores to Rs. 170 crores, and there is no guarantee that that is the last of it. The cost of the rolling mills alone in the Rourkela plant has shot up from Rs. 48 crores to Rs. 72 crores, and what is called "General Services" has gone up from Rs. 13 crores to Rs. 19 crores, a clear increase of 50 per cent. in the original estimate and the target price. Like the genii of Aladdin, the prices keep swelling and jumping. Only, Aladdin had the capacity and the power to bottle up the genii. I sometimes wonder if the Minister, with his best intentions, can cry a halt to rising prices and costs of the steel plants.

Apart from the rising cost, there is the very disturbing feature about our steel plant, and that is, delays. I should like to divide these delays into these categories: what we mean by delays; what are the causes of these delays; what is the cost we are to pay for these delays and what are the likely consequences of these delays.

Sir, the memorandum for the steel project at Rourkela was signed on 15-8-1953, and the final project was received in November, 1955 We find that from the signing of the memorandum to the finalization of the complete project, it took two long years, when all these years we had been talking about the necessity of enhancing our steel production. We were then told that the steel mill would go into production at the end of 1959. It is estimated now that there will be a delay in the case of Rourkela which has been taking the pride of place in our thinking. So far as the economic development of the country is concerned, there will be a delay in Rourkela of 18 months. From the initial signing, it is seven years and from the completion of the project contract, five long years.

In the case of Bhilai, the record is a little better: five years from the date of signing and four years from the completion of the contract. In the case of Durgapur, it will be five years. I should like to put a very simple question to the Minister: if Bhilai can be completed in four years, why should the other two plants take such a long time?

Secondly, I should like to elaborate this thing. It is, how have the other countries been taking their time. My submission here is that the original time that was scheduled was itself a very long one Add to this the delays to which I have already referred. In the USSR, they set up a furnace in less than six months and in full operation In the United States, they set the working of a blast furnace in eight to ten months The Fairless Steel Works of the United States, with a capacity of two million tons, was completed in 18 months. I am told by experts-- we could find the authorities here— that given Indian conditions, an integrated complete steel works can be put into operation in less than three years

The London *Economist* recently published something which the Government and we ought to take note of. China had increased her steel production from five million to ten million tons in one single year. That means that country outstrips the progress India made in 58 years in one single year. And something else is to come. Mr Adlai Stevenson—I do not think particularly a good propagandist for the Communists—tells us that next year the production in China will go up from ten million tons in one year to 20 million tons a year. Little Egypt is to have a steel plant at what speed and cost? The cost is also very interesting. It will be producing in its single plant a quarter million tons. That means 2,50,000 tons in our language. It comes to 21 million

Egyptian pounds. That means roughly less than Rs. 25 crores.

Now, let me say what will be the cost of these delays. It is estimated that every day we delay these steel plants coming into operation, it is going to cost the nation anything between Rs. 12½ lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs. This is for every single plant. What are the consequences of these delays? The consequences are very sad and disturbing. If, apart from this initial cost, it will mean that we shall continue to import steel at very high prices, what a drain it will be on our very meagre and precious foreign exchange! It means that when we export steel ultimately, because that was the main aim, we shall be exporting it at very high and uncompetitive uneconomic prices. This will be the main danger of these delays, apart from the prices which we will be paying.

What are the causes for these delays? I should like to enumerate very briefly some of the causes that have been responsible and I earnestly hope that the Minister will be good enough to take serious note of it. Firstly, there is this rigid central control We have a federal Government, but it is not necessary when we create an autonomous body to interfere in minor matters. The Government should reserve decisions on broad policies and there should be no necessity of central reference for every little thing.

There is another factor. We have too many consultants. There are as many as seven in the case of Rourkela and I shall be saying something of interest about the consultants at a later stage. Another factor is the inexperience of some of the contractors. We have Uttam Singh Duggal. Krupp and Demag protested against the contract being given to this particular firm, because this firm did not have the experience or the equipment for the kind of task they had undertaken Still, a huge contract was awarded to them and this House must know the reasons and the qualifications which went into consideration of this firm being granted this contract.

There is another—Hochtief Gammon. It is a very interesting thing to be studied, about which I would not like to go into details. They were fined Rs. 25 lakhs for inefficient work at Kandla. These are some of the contractors who will be doing this job in the very vital aspect of our industry.

The top management, as very often unfortunately happens in our country, is in the hands of non-technicians. Many of our top-ranking people are extremely good administrators, but being an administrator is entirely different from being a technician. This is a technical job and we must use such talent as the country has in this field. How can an administrator be good enough for everything? This is a malady from which our thinking suffers. For everything, a civil servant is used.

Then, the usual procedural delay, the classical red tape of India, has been there. That is another factor, as the country will gradually realise. In spite of the exorbitantly high prices that we have paid to these consultants, planning has been utterly defective—planning of the plants, planning of the site, planning of the supplies of raw materials and such elementary articles for the township like water. These are some of the causes that have led to this sad spectacle. I should like to ask, if China, if little Egypt, can go at that speed, why should we be shuffling and limping in this very vital aspect?

Having said that, I would like to point out some of the other glaring defects, so far as planning and wasteful expenditure are concerned. One example I may cite. We have imported carpenters from Germany. The total cost of these carpenters per year is Rs. 21 lakhs for 32 carpenters. It works out on an average that we pay each one of these carpenters more than Rs. 5,000 per month. That is

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approximately the salary you pay to a judge of the Supreme Court of India. Imagine that you mention this figure to an Indian carpenter, who earns something like Rs. 90 where he is well-paid. I think the fellow will never recover from the shock that a carpenter in his own country is being paid Rs. 5,000 a month.

Why should this be the state of affairs after all this planning? We have these consultants. Who are they? About water, about iron ore, about coal, about washeries, about every one of these things, a lot could be said. I am saying this after going very carefully through the note which they were good enough to circulate. I will be coming to them in detail later on, but I will be coming to these consultants affairs right now. In the case of Rourkela, there are as many as seven consultants. My main criticism is, it is the normal pratcice that a consultant must be qualified for the job he is asked to do. Some of these consultants, I fling the charge, are not simply qualified. Manufacturing job is altogether a different job from the job of engineering. Some of these concerns, as later events showed, were very highly qualified indeed in the manufacturing job. But engineering consultation is something different. But we went on very liberally giving the contracts.

Then, it is the usual business practice—even law demands it—that consultants and suppliers must be different. If I am the consultant and I am the supplier, then you are done for. Human motives and human interests are there. They are not saints. In any of these cases, we find that the consultants and the suppliers happen to be the same. Hochtief Gammon, for instance, is the consultant and the supplier in the civil engineering work. Therefore, the fees will be staggering and no explanation will be given to this House. Rs. 55 lakhs are their fees and in addition, we are paying them Rs. 62 lakhs. The fees paid to these consultants are exorbitantly high. They have to meet the wider interests of their masters and very often, naturally enough, understandably enough, they often award the contracts to themselves. We find a rolling mill contract being given to one of the consultants. We find the civil engineering contract being given to the same consultants.

In spite of these consultants, we, therefore, find chaos in many a department. I will not be going into details, but it is common knowledge that the way the lay-out is made today is not such as to meet the increased demands for steel from the same factory. In the USSR and other countries, a plant is so built that tomorrow its capacity can go on increasing. Whatever the explanation may be, today we know from the best of experts in this country that even this preliminary precaution in the lay-out of the sites of the steel factories was not taken. Then, how are we to train our engineers and technicians? In Germany, they have not trained the requisite number of Indians nor they have associated the Indians with the designing work. Designing is a very vital part of the engineering work. The Germans have not simply trained our men. The Russians were willing to train Indians, but we availed of the opportunities, as usual, too late. In the Durgapur contract, there is no provision for training Indians.

What will be the result, after paying so much to all these consultants? The result is that for at least one or two years after the completion of the plants, there will be no Indians to take over these plants and we shall be needing the services of 300 to 400 technicians for at least the first preliminary year. Then, we have to remember that we have two steel plants in the private sector and another country not directly concerned with the contracts for the steel plants was ready to train our engineers in the United States of America. This is the sorry spectacle with regard to training of our own people in a very vital aspect of our industry. The Russians produced only about 3½ million tons of steel at the beginning of the first world war. Today it is a major industrialised nation. I would like to ask, is there something physically wrong with our nature that we cannot make the same progress?

I will be talking about these consultants and some of the interesting things later. I should now like to take the House with me to a very technical thing. How are these things, we should like to know, before we pass judgment.

There is a contract with the Indian Steel Works Construction Company, to which we shall hereafter be referring as ISWCO, to save words. Now under clause 14 we are to give them Rs. 15 crores. For what? For technical services. What are those technical services? It is a very fascinating chapter. Those technical services are to "prepare and submit all drawings required under clause 5". That is the consideration for this Rs. 15 crores. This firm will be preparing and supplying all drawings. Very good indeed. That is done under clause 5. What does clause 5 say? I will just come to that. Clause 14 says that we are to get the drawings among other things and, therefore, we have to pay Rs. 15 crores. Drawings are not the only consideration, there are others, but drawings are to be paid for, as per clause 5. And clause 5 says:

> "The contractor shall not be bound to submit for approval or supply....drawings....".

Then, sub-section (viii) of clause 5 is very important. What does it say? It says:

> "No charge shall be made by the contractor in respect of drawings supplied pursuant to this clause."

We are told in clause 14 that the money will be paid in accordance with clause 5. That is the consideration. But if you read clause 5, there is a sub-clause which says that no charge shall be made by the contractor in respect of drawings supplied pursuant to this clause. How is this consideration then? This clause categorically prohibits the payment for drawings, and here you show this as the main consideration. This is beyond us. But there are other clauses, equally puzzling and, therefore, worthy of our interest.

Then sub-clause (ii) of clause 14 says the things, apart from drawings, for which we have to pay. It says that this firm will—

> "Set up and maintain so long as reasonably required for the purpose of the contract:
>
> (a) A central technical and administrative organisation in Durgapur with a subsidiary office in Calcutta...."

Quite true. They are preparing drawings for us. So they have to maintain an office. But why should we pay for that? If I am drawing and you are paying for it, why should you bear the expenditure for the office? If I build a house for somebody and if I have to provide a little office for my party, it is I who should pay and not the man for whom I am building. They have a contract for such a huge steel plant. Why should we pay for their office? But something will have to be mentioned here for these Rs. 15 crores, called "technical services", and so these have been mentioned.

Then the clause says:

> "Co-ordinate the execution of the Works on Site and prepare all necessary progress schedules."

Is it not part of the job? Why should they be paid specially and separately for this? Then it says:

> "Progress and inspect Indian Plant at makers' works as necessary".

I would like to point out another thing.

[Shri Nath Pai]

We have consultants called the International Construction Company. We pay Rs. 2 crores to them. If these things are to be done by this Company, what are these Rs. 2 crores for? It is just like saying "you know something of steel; alright, come along and have Rs 5 lakhs", because there is an International Construction Company, to which we have to pay Rs 2 crores for doing exactly this work. This is the job of that company, but we are paying this company also another amount for this. How would you like this clause 14 Now, sub-clause (vi) of clause 14 says:

> "Organise and control the provision and use of temporary services......"

What a weighty consideration is this! This is ridiculous.

With clause 15, I will conclude This is all very technical and I am grateful to this House for patiently hearing when I am wading through these complexities of this particular aspect of the contract. Why are we paying Rs. 15 crores? We are paying Rs. 15 crores for the technical services, and in the technical services we include—

> "The cost of providing and maintaining temporary office accommodation on the site for the use of the Contractor. Actual Cost Sub-contractors and sub-contracts engaged on the site works."

Amazing that these too are termed as technical services! We mean by the word "technical" something very different. Then it says:

> "The cost of providing office furniture ..."

Is it a technical service? It goes on:

> "the cost of providing furniture for the dwellings of the specialist technical and administrative staff referred to in the preceding clause; the cost of providing and operating vehicles for the exclusive use of such staff."

These are some of the services for which we will be paying a sum of Rs. 15 crores. There is no other explanation that we have been able to get so far

I have already referred to certain aspects I know that I have spoken for 25 minutes. I am sure you will be kind enough to give some time by way of reply I will conclude at this stage by saying this much only. I have not been happy in narrating this sad story of this kind of bungling, lack of vision, lack of vigour and lack of good and sound planning I have been sad because on the success of our plan depend many of our hopes, many of our dreams We have hoped too much, we have suffered too much and we have spent too much on these plants and our future life revolves round this plant If this plant fails many of our dreams for the future will fail. Here I should like to point out one thing We were told by the ex-Finance Minister that we are going to salvage our future, mortgaging today for the success of these plants We were ready to mortgage our future, because we were told that these plants were going not only to redeem the future but also to take the country forward. It looks like an old man spending every penny which he has, mortgaging his insurance, mortgaging his pension, to educate his only son and that only son turning a good-for-nothing spendthrift, a little dandy. I am afraid that such a misfortune will befall if we are not careful and vigilant.

I want to point out another thing. The three plants are reserved by the Industrial Policy Resolution to the public sector. The whole concept of socialised industry is on trial. We cannot afford to see the failure of this plant. These plants have got to succeed. I should like to say that during my study of these plants I have not found anything to suggest that the Minister is in any way guilty. But I will accuse him of one thing. He has been trying to shield or connive at shielding somebody else. For himself, we cannot suggest that he has been guilty. But I will plead with him that the House is entitled to have a thorough-going enquiry, led by Members of this House and assisted by experts. That alone will lay at rest our fears. Otherwise, what looks particularly bright is not gold.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Annual Report of the Hindustan Steel Private Ltd., 1956-57, laid on the Table of the House on the 26th March, 1958, be taken into consideration."

I have got 15 names with me. There might be others also who want to speak.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am sure, the movers will get some chance.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not necessarily.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Why?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No answer to that question. Now may I have some approximate idea as to how much the hon. Minister will take.

Sardar Swaran Singh: It all depend upon what the hon. Members would like me to say. I will utilize whatever time I have got. But I think to do justice to the various points that the members would raise, at least 40 to 45 minutes would be required. If the Members want me not to cover all the points, I am not keen of covering them. It is upto them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are two hours and if the Minister takes 45 minutes, we will have 75 minutes with us.

Shri C. D. Pande: We can sit for another half an hour.

Shri Morarka: One hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The other day that question arose, and I put it before the House that this was the maximum time that could be allotted for a discussion.

Shri C. D. Pande: We can sit longer.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Sitting longer is no remedy for that.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: That day the rule was suspended.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Rather than that, why should we not remove the rule? There might be rare occasions when it might be suspended. Normally if the rule is suspended then the exception will have to be observed.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: The rule is made by the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: To be observed; not to be violated

15 hrs.

Shri Morarka (Jhunjhunu): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am very grateful to you for giving us the opportunity of discussing the activities of this Corporation which is the biggest corporation not only in the public sector, but is the biggest corporation in the whole country and in due course is going to be one of the biggest in the world. This Corporation would have a paid up capital of more than Rs. 1,000 crores when all the three plants are ready and the raw materials and finished goods start moving.

[Shri Morarka]

From the various questions that I have tabled on the floor of the House from time to time, Members must have noticed that I am not very happy about the way things are going on in the steel plants.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Excuse me; we did not fix the time. Ten minutes for each Member?

Shri Morarka: No that would be very little. You may kindly see how things go on and then fix the time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then, the Members who get a late chance would be deprived of their opportunity. Let it be ten minutes each; in exceptional cases, 15 minutes.

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Shri Morarka: In view of this rigid time limit, I will restrict myself only to a few points. I want to deal with a few contracts which have been given by this Hindustan Steel Corporation. My purpose in mentioning these contracts must not be mistaken. All that I want is that the Government's attention must be drawn to the weaknesses in the management of this big corporation. Technically, Government may be quite different from the corporation. But really the responsibility rests on the shoulders of this Government. Looking to the amount of Public money that is involved, I think the Government must always be vigilant about the activities of this Corporation, and exercise strict check on its spending departments.

The first contract that I want to refer to is the contract for civil engineering work of the rolling mill at Rourkela. This contract is given to a firm called Hochtief Gammon, (India) Limited. This Mr. Hochtief has a history behind him. First of all, he is the head of a consortium of firms who are the advisers and consultants of this plant for civil engineering work. It is this Mr. Hochtief and others who prepared the tender documents, invited tenders and when the tenders came, it is again he who scrutinised these tenders. These people were not tenderers at all. When the tenders came, they rejected all the tenders for one reason or the other. One of the tenders, I want to mention, was from Brittania Steel Construction Co., one of the very well known firms and the price quoted by this firm was also about Rs. 1 crore cheaper than the price at which the contract is ultimately given. This firm was not given the contract on the ground that the time schedule of this firm was out and this firm did not appear to these consultants to be a firm who knew the type of job involved in this tender. Then, a target price was fixed by these consultants and at this target price, the contract was given The target price is that material and labour would be about Rs. 5 crores, and the supervision and equipment hire charges would be Rs. 2·75 crores Apart from anything else, whatever may happen to the contract, a sum of Rs. 62 lakhs would be given to the contractors as fixed fee. Over and above this Rs. 62 lakhs, Rs. 28 lakhs for the Bombay office and Rs. 21 lakhs for the office in Germany would be given to them as overheads This was not all. If they completed the contract a little before the scheduled date which again was fixed by themselves, they would get Rs. 2 lakhs for every month that they save and this is by way of bonus. If they saved anything from the target figure—again the target figure was fixed by them—one-third of the benefit would go to these persons and two-thirds to the Government. If the target figure is exceeded, one-third would be provided by them and two-thirds by the people.

Apart from this, there was the question of equipment. Many times, this question has come up before this House. For carrying out this contract, the contractors required certain equipment. May I assure you that this equipment was not very special type of equipment: equipment like concrete mixers, watering pumps, trucks, cranes, etc. The Government or the officers of the Hindustan Steel (Private) Ltd., decided that they would not invest a sum of Rs. 60 lakhs required for purchasing this equipment. They rather decided that they would hire it out, and after consultation, they fixed the rent charges, and other expenses payable on this. Provision made for the rent amount that would be payable and other expenses incidental to this equipment, was Rs. 75 lakhs. If the Government had purchased them, it would have cost Rs. 60 lakhs. They provided hiring charges Rs. 50 lakhs plus Rs. 25 lakhs for maintenance and other things: in all Rs. 75 lakhs. This equipment, again, is not new. Their rates for the equipment are fixed on the basis that it is new. But, the equipment, most of it at any rate, has to come from Kandla and all that is second-hand. One of the directors of the company objected to this agreement on the ground that most of this equipment is available in India. He said that this equipment is available in India and therefore, we should not accept these rigorous terms. The management at Rourkela gave the opinion that this equipment was not readily available and hence they decided to hire it out.

About the antecedents of Mr. Hochtief, he had taken a work in partnership with some other people in Kandla. There the work was not carried out as per terms of the contract, so much so that the Government was ultimately obliged to impose a penalty of Rs. 25 lakhs. I have put a few questions on this subject in this House and the hon. Minister of Iron and Steel said that he was not aware. I can understand, these are matters of detail and he may not be aware of them. But, certainly the Ministry which was responsible for giving the work to this contractor knew that most of this equipment was to come from Kandla, that this man had a contract at Kandla and what were the antecedents of this gentleman. Not only this. I put a question to the Minister of Transport, Shri Raj Bahadur, on 20th August, 1958. From the answers he gave, it does not seem that the Minister was very willing to take the House into confidence. I would, with your permission read out my questions and his answers.

Question: "May I know whether any penalty has been imposed on this firm; (that is, the firm including Mr. Hochtief), if so, the amount of penalty and the reasons for imposing it?"

Answer: "I have already indicated in the statement that the entire work was completed except for some minor works amounting to Rs. 25 lakhs. In respect of that part of the work a notice has been given that the penalty may be charged and this matter is under consideration of the Government."

My second **question** was: "Is it not a fact that the penalty has already been imposed on this firm, the payment has been stopped and the matter has been referred to arbitration?"

Answer: "That is correct."

Then, my **question:** "If the penalty has already been imposed, may I know the penalty that has been imposed?"

Answer: "One-tenth of the total estimated cost of Part III amounting to Rs. 5 crores....which will be in the vicinity of Rs. 25 lakhs."

Almost a cross-examination to take out the information. Why?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It should not have been allowed.

Shri Morarka: To a simple question whether the particular contractor has been good and has carried out the work satisfactorily or whether a penalty has been imposed on him, the Minister says that a penalty of Rs. 25 lacs is imposed on him but the work carried out was satisfactory. It is at least a question of propriety that when a matter is under arbitration, the Minister, on the floor of the House should say that the

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execution of the contract was entirely satisfactory. That is for other people, the arbitrators, to determine, whether the penalty imposed was proper or not proper. The matter is still under arbitration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Ten minutes are over.

Shri Morarka: I beg of you to give me some time because there are very important points.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): He is a technical expert.

Mr. Morarka: Apart from the price fixed for the target, namely Rs. 7·78 crores, many items are not included in it; for instance, residential accommodation for the contractors and their staff who would be coming and staying there is not included, and that is not insignificant. There are five bungalows of three bed rooms, there are 40 or two bed rooms—all at huge, colossal cost.

What type of contract is this? What is the basis? Even assuming that we do not find many civil engineers in this country to undertake a contract like this, certainly on grounds of propriety at least you could not give this contract to your own consultants. You should have called for global tenders, you should have asked other people to come and quote and then only decide on merits.

The next question is about the firm of Uttam Singh Duggal. They had done some work in the Punjab, and the Public Accounts Committee of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha had said this about their work:

> "The contractors had, in resiling from their verbal statement, betrayed an utter lack of good business principles and are, therefore, unworthy of any Government contract being given to them. The Committee, therefore, strongly recommends that in view of this misdemeanour they , and their allied concerns should be immediately blacklisted by the State Government and intimation to this effect sent to the Government of India as well as to other State Governments for information."

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): He was disqualified in the Punjab, but Delhi is not Punjab.

Shri Morarka: Shri Sharma did not, in his anxiety, listen to the latter part.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He had listened all right, but he is disturbing purposely.

Shri Morarka: This firm of Uttam Singh Duggal was given a contract first in Rourkela for about Rs. 2 crores, and another contract in Bhilai for Rs. 1 crore. They failed in Rourkela so much so that Rs. 21 lakhs we had to spend for getting carpenters for helping them. Why the company should pay Rs. 21 lakhs I cannot understand but notwithstanding this and, in spite of this report, and in spite of their failure, a new contract is given to them. That is the latest.

Shri Khadilkar (Ahmednagar): Give a chance to the sinner!

Shri Morarka: Why this happens I cannot understand.

Then, there are other contracts. Tenders are invited and the contract is given for Rs. 3 lakhs. Later on the contractor claims that the work is more, more work has to be done by him, and the amount is increased to Rs. 42 lakhs from Rs. 3 lakhs. Look at the propriety of this. A tender is invited and the work is given for Rs. 3 lakhs. The contractor says there is more work and asks for more, and the amount is increased to Rs. 42 lakhs. If you want, I will give the exact figures. The tender was for Rs. 3,07,500 and it was increased to Rs. 42,67,500 ultimately. There are many such instances. This is not the only one. In other cases the amounts have been increased three times, four times and so on. I have taken an instance where the amount has been increased 14 times.

The hon. Member who preceded me mentioned about the rolling mill, the cost of which has increased from Rs. 48 to Rs. 72 crores. All that I want to know is: who were the technicians on our side, who were the persons on behalf of the Government of India or the Hindustan Steel (Private) Limited, who justified this increase, who examined, when through this thing, and were satisfied that this increase was proper?

Similarly, in the revised estimates, an item of Rs. 15 crores is introduced in the Bhilai estimates. In the original estimate it was not there. By way of enabling works, temporary things, this and that, one single item of Rs. 15 crores has been introduced. Similarly, in Durgapur, under the item of general civil engineering works, Rs. 6·59 crores have been introduced.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Is it the contention that these enabling works are not necessary?

Shri Morarka: What I said was that in the original estimates it was not there, and how did it come in the revised estimate? You have paid Rs. 2½ crores to your consultants to prepare the project reports. Were they so precise in their estimates as to increase them by Rs. 15 and Rs. 16 crores in a single item?

Sardar Swaran Singh: What is the suggestion? that the items which are now included are not necessary?

Shri Morarka: You may request the hon. Minister either not to interrupt me or give me more time. My point is not whether they were necessary or not.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What the hon. Member means to say is that these consultants were so negligent as to ignore a thing which was very necessary and would have cost Rs. 15 crores. That was not a negligible amount or item that should be ignored by them if they were to be paid a sum of Rs. 2 crores.

Sardar Swaran Singh: This is quite correct. I only wanted to say that we are now vigilant, and we have included all that is necessary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has taken 15 minutes.

Shri Morarka: But the chain of my argument is always broken like this, and I have to repeat the argument.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He need not repeat. He may refer to any other thing within a minute or two.

Shri Morarka: Very well. I come to the raw material supply to these plants. The plants themselves are already delayed; they are not even according to schedule, much less ahead of schedule. Even though they are delayed, the supply of raw materials is still more delayed. The main raw material is iron ore. For Rourkela, the iron ore mines would not be ready till 1960, and we do not know whether they would be ready even then. Since the mines, which are at a distance of 42 to 45 miles would not be ready, we will have to get iron ore from another firm at a distance of 140 miles. Why we cannot get from the same mines, even though they are not mechanised, as we would get for Bhilai—the so-called 'floating ore' collected by manual labour—I cannot understand. This is going to cost a lot of money.

Secondly, in Bhilai also, the mines would not be ready and it will take 12 to 15 month's more before they are ready.

The next important thing for the steel projects is coal. What is the story about coal? We wanted to put up two coal washeries at Kargali and Dugda. Kargali would be ready and we would be spending Rs. 2½

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crores on it. For the same capacity, everything being same, for Dugda we would be spending Rs. 4 to Rs. 4½ crores, and it would not be ready in time either. So, for that we would be using superior coal from Jharia. That again would increase the cost.

Then about limestone. For Rourkela some limestone we would be getting from Satna, 500 miles away. Every day a minimum of 30 wagons would be coming, in order to make our L.D. process a success.

Then again what do we find? The silicon content of the pig iron is supposed to be very high and therefore unsuitable for the L.D. process. So, for that purpose you must either put up a de-siliconising plant or you must do something else.

For what do we pay this huge amount to our consultants whose time-schedules are out, whose estimates are out, whose technical data are out. And last but not the least the very site in Rourkela we had to shift from one place to another at a cost of Rs. 2·6 crores. That is the additional amount we had to spend because the original site proved to be rocky and we had to have a softer site.

I shall conclude in a minute, but before that I would say only one or two things. One point is about water supply. Our consultants estimated that the required water supply at Rourkela would be 60 cusecs for the plant and 10 cusecs for the township. Now they have revised it and they say we would require 125 cusecs—double. And the river which the Orissa Government said never dried also dried in 1955. On the one hand the requirement of water has increased, and the supply of water has decreased. The contention of the Government was that this river Brahmini never dried and therefore they could not anticipate the difficulty, but my research indicates that on 16th September 1954 the late lamented Dr. Meghnad Saha put a question to the then Minister in charge, Shri K. C. Reddy, which is relevant to this point, and with your permission I would read it:

> "Shri Meghnad Saha: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that, according to reports, this river goes absolutely dry at certain times of the year and there is no flow of water?"

This was in 1954. According to Government, however, for the first time, the river was dry in 1955. And Shri Meghnad Saha brought this thing to the notice of Government in 1954.

The answer given was:

> "What I can say is that the whole question has been gone into great detail by an officer who is competent to express an opinion.".

What a competent officer!

> "And I have just given in my answer as to what his findings are.".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The water is drying up here also.

Shri Morarka: In conclusion, I would only say this that whatever may happen to these plants, they would certainly go into operation sooner or later. But we are wedded to this philosophy of the public sector, and any failure of these plants may mean a failure of this public sector, which would be a tragedy. I wish that Government should learn a lesson from this experience and improve upon these various things, so that at least in the future, these mistakes may not be repeated, and the spending may be properly scrutinised and supervised.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not want to object—because I know that my hon. friend Shri Morarka is very keen to put forward certain points—but I would only like to remind that there is a report which is under discussion. I have purposely not said that we are not discussing all the projects; I do not object, but really the subject-matter is the report before us. I do not mind, but this also should be borne in mind.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): The Rourkela project has been under the Hindustan Steels for quite a long time. So, we can discuss Rourkela.

The first point that I desire to place before this House is....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a fact that what we have got before us for discussion is the report, and mostly, the remarks should be about that, though, taking it as a public undertaking and so on, references could be made to these other things.

Sardar Swaran Singh: That was why I did not raise any Technical objection. But I only wanted to point this out.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, there should be no extensions; hon. Members should take only ten minutes each.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: The first point is that we are discussing the report of 1956-57 very nearly at the end of 1958, when the fourth report should have been out but it is not yet out. The entire report of a concern like this where the block capital will be definitely round about Rs. 500 crores is just one page. I want the House to know how very revealing the Hindustan Steel Co., has been that exactly one page of report has been given by a concern which has got a block capital of nearly Rs. 500 crores

It has been stated by the two previous speakers that there has been failure to plan. Perhaps, it is not known that in the case of limestone which was required, and which we think is such an ingredient that not even a technician or a consultant but even a layman will not lose sight of that fact, we find that not until after the plant was half-way through construction, suddenly the big consultants discovered that limestone was not available. Therefore, they went to a quarry, and the hon. Minister tells us that the preliminary reports indicate that the cost of mining will be very heavy because we shall have to quarry three times the quantity that we require before we come across the right type of limestone. We have got consultants, and then checks on consultants, and consultants on consultants. I ask the Minister, 'what did they do?'. May I know whether this is the way how it should be done, that three times the raw material has to be quarried before we get the right type of limestone for our steel plants, and it was nobody's business to look into it? I ask for an explanation from the hon. Minister for this. And what is more, in other cases even it has been pointed out, as in the case of Rourkela for instance, which is undoubtedly a work from the very start under the Hindustan Steel, that iron ore will not be ready, and therefore, we have got to procure iron ore through the State Trading Corporation from the Gua region. Reference has also been made to the Dugda washeries. Is it not their job? Whose job is it to synchronise these various processes? I ask, when we are paying our consultants Rs. 14 crores and something more, is it not their primary and preliminary job to see that sources of raw material are synchronised with the construction of the steel plants?

My hon. friend Shri Nath Pai has referred to the rising cost of revised estimates. He has not done full justice to the case. With the revised cost of Rs. 170 crores for Rourkela the cost of three plants totals up to Rs. 439 crores. But does this House know that this cost of the steel plants, namely, Rs 439 crores do not include most important items? They do not include cost of township; they do not include cost of iron ore mines; they

[Shri Naushir Bharucha]

do not include limestone quarries; they do not include development of water supply. About 60 million gallons are required for a one-million steel plant, equivalent to the water used by the city of Delhi. The cost of that has not been included in these Rs. 439 crores. Then, the cost of land is also not included. Our consultants forgot to include that. The cost of prospecting and designing is also not included. The consultants are there for designing, but the cost of designing is not included. The cost of power supply up to the perimeter of the plant has not been included. The cost of training personnel is not included. The cost of railway works outside the plant is not included. The cost of personnel employed directly under the project is not included. Even customs duties are not included. Office expenditure is not included. Even 'Other ancillary expenditure' has not been included. These Rs. 439 crores do not include all this expenditure. The revised estimates are false and an eye-wash. Then, how much will they cost?

The three townships will cost about Rs. 42 crores more. The iron ore mines and the limestone quarries will cost just a little, namely, Rs. 20 crores; then, fees to consultants for bungling all these matters would come to Rs. 9·25 crores, water supply Rs. 4·5 crores, cost of Soviet staff Rs. 4·5 crores, and petty expenditure such as expenses on prospecting, railway works outside the plant, training schemes etc. will be Rs. 40 crores. The total comes to Rs. 120 crores more, which is not shown in the revised estimates even. And by the time we have the steel plants in operation, I think it will go up to about Rs. 600 crores.

Much has been said about the consultants. I only desire to point out a few things. Some of the duties have been shown by my hon. friend Shri Nath Pai. And what are those duties? Their duties are planning general lay-out Have you ever heard that where you give an entire contract for the construction of a plant, you leave aside this item and require that the consultants should be paid additionally for that? Then, their duty is to prepare lay-out for each main department. Surely, if you are going to plan general lay-out, first you think of the main departments that you are going to have. Then, their duty is to scrutinise specifications and tenders and advise Government. If interested parties advise Government, what could be the advice? Yesterday, I said that M.P.s should be associated on statutory bodies Why did I say so? I said so because we could stand up and tell the House, 'Look here, this is wrong, this contract shall not be given', and if anything happens, we can come to the House and say that the Hindustan Steel Co. is acting in an unfair manner, unfair to the public. That was the reason why I insisted yesterday that M.P.s should be associated with statutory bodies

After all, this House grudges paying an M.P. Rs. 21 as compensatory allowance; when I said Rs. 42, some people raised their hands in horror and said 'Rs. 42? M.P.s would be corrupted.'. And here, my hon. friend says that carpenters get Rs. 5,000, which is my annual salary in this House. A carpenter is getting Rs 5,000 a month, while I am getting Rs. 400 a month

Acharya Kripalani: (Sitamarhi): Socialist pattern.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The other day, an American lady enquired what salary I was getting. I said I was getting Rs. 2,000 a month. She said that her cook was getting more than that.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: The salaries in the Hindustan Steel are on that basis. Because, in one case, Rs. 75 lakhs are to be given to a resident engineer for his establishment, the salaries are all on that scale. Therefore, I thought that perhaps Rs. 42 given per day to an honourable Member of Parliament to be a check on them was not too much. That was the point of view that I had in mind.

Then, their duties are approval of design supervision of manufacture, co-ordination of manufacture and so on. Can a steel plant ever be constructed without these preliminary things being arranged? If we have contracted for the entire construction of the steel plants, why should these additional emoluments, perquisities, and fees to consultants and so on be there?

Sometimes I wonder, after going through reports of expenditure, why did I blunder into the Lok Sabha instead of gate-crashing into Hindustan Steel? It would have been better if I had done that!

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is never too late.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Never too late. But I prefer to remain here.

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no question of gate-crashing. He is very welcome. It is an invitation on my behalf.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Thank you for your invitation. But I prefer to remain here and criticise Hindustan Steel Co.

Sardar Swaran Singh: God bless you. That is all I have to say.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I thank him for his invitation, but I prefer to remain here and watch the interests of the taxpayer.

What are our grievances? Mainly they are these. First, planning for raw materials is neither intelligent nor synchronised and it is extremely wasteful. Secondly, even revised estimates do not include most obvious items, and it is high time for the hon. Minister to tell us what is going to be the ultimate cost. Thirdly, the Hindustan Steel has entered into contracts running into crores of rupees on which this House is not given the barest information. When a question was asked in this House, whether a particular contract would be placed on the Table, the hon. Minister said, 'No, it cannot be placed' Why can it not be placed?

Then we have the report of Hindustan Steel. It is a belated document It is merely a scrap of paper Accounts and balance sheet give figures in lump sums so that no head or tail can be made of the state of affairs of the Hindustan Steel. Unnecessary consultation is duplicated and crores of rupees are spent on foreign technicians while technicians are available here. I end with the plea that there must be an inquiry into all this.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): All that I have to say in regard to the three speeches that we have heard so far is only that our hon. friends do not seem to keep in mind the general atmosphere of impatient revolution, hope and adventure in which we are all partners, and it is only because of our impatience—if there can be any justification at all—that there has been failure of our experts and consultants and Ministers to make provision for so many of these various very essential items.

Before we became free, we had occasion to discuss the need for starting and constructing these steel plants in the then Standing Finance Committee. We wanted the then Planning Member to look into this matter, to get plans prepared and so on. He had earlier been the head of the Tata Iron and Steel concern. So we hoped that he might be able to help us in this regard. It took us more than 7 years after we became free to be able to get anybody at all anywhere in the world to come down to earth and to deal with us on a par

[Shri Ranga]

and agree to co-operate with us in constructing these iron and steel plants. If it had not been for the initiative—I speak subject to correction—taken by the Russian leaders in throwing a kind of a challenge to the rest of the world in helping us to construct the iron and steel factories here in our country......

Shri C. D. Pande (Nainital): The Germans had come earlier.

Shri Ranga:......I do not know whether the Germans or the British would have been half as reasonable as they have to be—in spite of their unreasonableness, as it has been made out quite correctly on the floor of the House.

Acharya Kripalani: Wrong chronolongy.

Shri Ranga: I am no greate friend of the Communists than my hon friend Acharya Kripalani. Neverthe--less, facts are there.

Another thing is that the Government were not blindfolded when they did not make provision for many of these items. It was clearly stated—I had occasion recently to look into these agreements—that for such and such items these foreign concerns were not going to make themselves responsible; they were leaving them to the Government of India to make their own plans and estimates. The Government of India were so impatient in getting these concerns to agree to the construction of these plants that they, for their own good reasons, with which I am not prepared to agree completely, chose to leave so many of these loose ends and at the some time go ahead with these contracts and agreements.

Having said that, I would make a few points. I am sure the hon. Minister is the proper person to deal with the points that have already been made, the points that I propose to make and other points that will be made on the floor of the House. What I am worried about is the general state of insecurity that prevails today in the Rourkela area and also at Bhilai and Durgapur to some extent, as also the lack of co-ordination between the railway authorities, port authorities and the steel plant authorities themselves. The result is that large quantities of imported materials, very valuable materials, imported into the country for the purpose of the Bhilai and Rourkela plants find their way into the markets of Visakhapatnam, Jubbulpore, Sambalpur and several other places.

Only recently, there were large thefts carried on by, it appears, organised gangsters in the Rourkela area. I am not quite satisfied, after having heard what they have said, that there is proper co-operation between the local Government and their police department and our own plant authorities. It is time the hon. Minister, and also, if necessary, the Prime Minister, called a conference of all these concerned authorities, the local Governments, the railway authorities, the port authorities and the plant authorities themselves and the apex body in order to bring about some sense of national urgency, some sense of the need for co-operation and co-ordination among themselves. My fear is that not only the completion of these projects would be delayed, but valuable properties would be lost and the reputation of Government and their executives for proper maintenance of their own stores would be lost.

Next, I want to know why they have been changing the headquarters of this great concern from time to time. They started first at Delhi, then took it to Calcutta, and now they have brought it back to Delhi. I do not know why they have done this. Would it not have been better if they had kept it at Calcutta where the largest proportion of our imported machines are being received at the port, where there is great need for the highest authorities to be in touch with the port authorities, the railway authorities and corporation authorities in order to ease the movement of these imported materials and mahcines from the Calcutta docks down to the plants themselves?

Thirdly, is it absolutely necessary that we should have, in addition to the two laymen in the persons of the Minister and Deputy Minister, another layman, a non-technical person, at the head of this great concern? I believe Shri Boothalingam is still there Is it so?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No, Shri Pande, former Chairman of the Railway Board, is at present Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Shri Ranga: Then I speak subject to correction. I am glad they have a technically qualified and administratively experienced person at the head of this great concern. I would like similar steps to be taken in regard to the posts of General Managers of these plants also. I have come across only one man—a live-wire he is—who has put new life into one of the plants, because he has had both administrative and engineering experience in his distinguished career.

Having said that, I would like to suggest the need for taking the earliest possible steps to build accommodation for stores and also keep accounts for stores. Till now very little had been done in Bhilai and Rourkela. They have already begun to do something at Durgapur. The other day I had seen it. But it is necessary that these steps should be taken at the other two plants also. Rapid progress is being made in building these townships and much more is going to be done very soon. I am confident that in regard to the progress of these plants also, thanks to the healthy competition there is today between Bhilai and the Russians associated with it and Rourkela and the Germans associated with it, they would not be for out regarding the target fixed for the commencement of their active production. At the same time, so much more can be achieved if only coordination can be had.

Lastly, Sir, it is most essential that we should develop our designing section Only recently, I was told that this concern has decided upon opening a designing section; but not enough is being spent. Much more has got to be spent than they have spent so far in training our own experts, in giving opportunities to our own artisans and skilled workers to get themselves trained. Every effort has got to be made in order to see that our engineers, our experts, our artisans and others are so well trained in the construction of these things that they would enable our country to construct other concerns without very much of help from these foreign consultants after the construction of these three great plants. It is in this direction that much more progress has got to be made.

Shri Panigrahi (Puri): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that it is of no avail if we simply discuss about the difficulties that the Hindustan Steel Private Ltd. is facing today in the case of these three major steel projects It is really a fact that when India decided to go into large-scale production of steel in the public sector there were no technicians or skilled men available in this country; and it is also a fact that there was not enough experience available. It is good that the Soviet Union, with its desire to help all the under-developed countries in the world to build these heavy industries and make them independent of foreign countries, started the race in India for steel.

Acharya Kripalani: Just as in Hungary!

Shri Panigrahi: Of course, mistakes are there. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that they should take all this criticism in the spirit that the Hindustan Steel Private Ltd. should improve and remove these difficulties so that in coming years, in the Third Plan and in the succeeding Plans, when we are going to take up more steel plants, India can go ahead with the production of steel. With this end in view, I would like to make a few suggestions for the consideration of the hon. Minister.

It is a fact that during the last one year China has made tremendous progress in the production of steel and they have set up a target of having 20 million tons of steel, whereas in this Plan period the Government of India has fixed a target of only 6 million tons. The progress that China is making in the production of steel should be taken into consideration and Government should go forward with vigour to see that steel production in the country is increased

I find that in 1958, instead of production of steel increasing, it fell by 33,000 tons When we are having large-scale steel plants and when they are expected to go into production, those plants which are already in the field could not come up to our expectations. Naturally, in India, the production of steel went down by 33,000 tons in the first quarter of 1958

I refer to the employment potential as well as to the technical man-power that will be needed for carrying out these steel projects It has been calculated by the different experts that for setting up a steel plant of 1 million tons, every year about 2 million tons of iron ore are required. A little less than 2 million tons of coal, 5,50,000 tons of limstone. 3 lakh tons of dolomite, one lakh tons of manganese ore and many other kinds of material are required. Is the Government of India giving an opportunity to the Indian consultants who are working in this country to associate themselves with these steel projects so that in future they will get the experience to work out the mines with iron potential like Barsua or Kiriburu which are going to export iron ore to Japan? I feel Hindustan Steel Private Ltd., has not been giving due consideration to this problem. Indian consultants have never been given the opportunity to associate themselves with either the construction of these three plants or in quarrying iron ore or manganese or other material resources which will help the production of steel in these plants.

15.45 hrs.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair*]

In so far as supply of iron ore to Durgapur is concerned they have given the contract to one Bird & Co., which is very notorious for its anti-labour policy We in Orissa know what sort of company this is. That company which is a British owned company has been given the contract to quarry iron ore for supply to Durgapur.

Similarly, in order to supply iron ore from Barsua mine to Rourkela the contract has been given to another American firm. So, in the case of Durgapur, in the case of Rourkela all these contracts for quarrying iron ore are being given to foreign consultants and foreign firms

The Government of India has entered into an agreement with Japan for exporting 2 million tons of iron ore every year from Orissa I would like to know from the hon Minister whether they are going to give the opportunity to an Indian consultant or an Indian firm to quarry iron ore When the question of quarrying iron ore from Orissa comes, I mean the Kiriburumines comes, you cannot give the opportunity to an Indian consultant or Indian firm. It has happened recently that Japan has come into the picture. I do not know how far it is correct. But I understand that the Japanese firm has told the Government of India that if they are not going to give the contract to them (the Japanese) they are not going to supply the loans promised. I do not know how far this is correct. The Indian consultants quoted their tenders; still the Japanese firm was preferred.

Then, the question of technical personnel also comes. In the case of technical personnel, the Government of India have calculated the number of persons that would be required to run these three projects after they are completed. They have decided that for running these steel projects, 120 experienced engineers who would have the requisite higher technical qualifications would be required Secondly, they have calculated that 1,200 qualified engineers, 10,000 skilled workers of different categories, and 7,000 semi-skilled workers would be required

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, when these foreign consultants and foreign technicians will deliver the steel plants to us and go to their country, the Government of India would be in a position to take charge of these plants and run them, whether they are in a position to supply this needed technical personnel for running these plants.

I would like to refer to one or two points, especially about Rourkela. The condition is really very serious. When the projects are being run in the public sector, it is expected that the labourers working there will get a better deal but there is a constant complaint from the labour population that the authorities there are dealing with them very badly. The anti-labour policy is very much resented by the labour population and there cannot be co-operation from them if this policy is pursued.

There is one more point with regard to Rourkla. That is about the foreign fitters there. In Orissa, almost all the daily newspapers are very much worried; this news has been reported in almost all the papers. It is reported that these foreign fitters now residing at the Appentice Hostel in Sector No. 5 are employing maid servants as ward girls and there is an open prostitution going on there. It is more surprising that they are sending naked photos of girls to Germany. It really tells upon the prestige of the country. Whenever we are writing a letter to our constituency, it is being tapped and even that letter takes fifteen days to reach its destination. Still, I do not know how these foreign fitters are sending naked photos and obscene pictures to Germany. There must be somebody to check it. This is also a cause of anxiety in Rourkela and it causes friction among the local population there

Lastly, I submit that the hon. Minister should take sufficient precaution to see that the water supply position in Rourkela improves and opportunities are given to the Indian consultants to associate themselves at every stage of construction in the steel projects.

Shri Somani (Dausa): Mr Chairman, the task of establishing three steel projects in this country is really a gigantic one and it is only fair that we should realise and appreciate the unprecedented nature of the difficulties and problems that have to be faced by those who are in charge of the management of these projects. I have no knowledge of the various contracts and agreements about the consultants and, therefore, I would like to confine myself to make a few observations in the nature of making suggestions in regard to the functioning of these projects. My submission to the hon. Minister is that the very nature of the complexity and magnitude of these projects require deep thinking and imagination about the set-up which is in charge of the progress of these projects. My first submission is either these three projects should be constituted into three independent and

[Shri Somani]

separate companies or, alternatively, the Hindustan Steel Private Limited should at least have three separate subsidiaries, which will mean three independent boards which would take charge of the management of each of the project. This will lead to healthy competition on the one hand between one project and the other and will also ensure that proper justice will be done to the various problems which come up for consideration before the board of management. However efficient and competent the members of the board of the Hindustan Steel might be, it is beyond the physical capacity of any such board to grapple satisfactorily with the various problems which arise in the course of construction of these three steel projects. Therefore, I seriously suggest for the consideration of the Government that in order that these projects might be run efficiently and smoothly, it is desirable to introduce decentralisation to a certain extent and to ensure that the problems of each project will receive proper consideration So. it is desirable that there should be three separate independent boards to manage these projects.

I would also like to suggest that the time has come when these projects might go into production; so in the near future, the Government may seriously consider the desirability of offering shares either by way of preference capital or equity capital or both to the public so that they may invest in these projects. This will lead to two results: firstly, it will enable the Government to raise financial resources from the public. This is possible now in view of the fact that quite a substantial progress had already been made in the construction of these projects. Due to the present easy conditions in the money market. It is opportune time for the Government to consider the constitution of separate companies for each project and offer shares to the public for investment.

Secondly, it will lead the public shareholders to take an intelligent interest in these projects on the same lines as the shareholders take interest in the functioning of private companies. It is not possible for this House to go into the details of management about the working. I think it will be desirable if an opportunity is given to the investors of this country who will, while contributing capital for the establishment of these projects will also be able to make constructive contribution for the management of these concerns. ..(*Interruptions*)

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): He wants the Industrial Policy Resolution to be changed

Shri Somani: I make these suggestions in the hope of ensuring better management of these projects so that the public may have a better opportunity of going into the working of these projects The Government will also be able to raise some financial resources which are so badly needed

Apart from that I would also like to suggest to the hon. Minister this question for his consideration. I do not understand the desirability of entrusting the delivery of all the iron ore requirements to the STC There are normal trade channels and I see no reason why the STC should be entrusted with the task of supplying the full requirements to these projects It will lead to much better and more efficient working if this is left open to the normal trade channels

Then there is the question of the future expansion of the steel industry and in the context of the possibility of export trade, I would like to draw the attention to what the private sector steel management has to say in this connection From the various points of view, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister the advisability of associating experienced businessmen and members of the various other fields of public activity so as to ensure that these huge projects might have the benefit of all shades of public opinion in their administration.... (*Interruptions.*)

16 hrs.

Shri Khadilkar: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to restrict my remarks as far as possible to the report under discussion; but, unfortunately, the report that is before us is extremely scanty. And, so far as steel projects are concerned, from the point of view of investment and production potential, if we take into consideration, they are comparable to our Railways. Therefore, what I would suggest is that, as in the West, public corporations should present their reports with a good deal of information—I would request the Minister to take note of it—so that the House and the people would be in a better position to judge what really is taking place. Simply a two-and-half page report perhaps, even less, does not do justice to the national undertaking that is entrusted to this Ministry

Coming to the report before us, what I find is that something somewhere has gone wrong regarding the planning and other things concerning these three steel plants. I admit that it is a big effort. We had no previous experience. We had to depend much more on the foreign talent and guidance. But, even then, one feels, after going through this, why our experienced people should not have budgeted properly; because, in this country, when public enterprises are expanding, there is a general tendency that so far as budgeting is concerned either it is under-estimated at the beginning or when the work progresses one discovers that the magnitude of investment is out of all proportions

I will just give a small instance. Originally, if I correctly remember, the investment was proposed to be Rs. 345 crores on this. In 1958, it was estimated to cost about Rs. 439 crores, which means a 24 per cent. increase. Of course, this excludes the investment so far as housing and other things are concerned, and I would like to take note of it because, as I see things, ultimately these three projects will cost us about Rs. 600 crores. That is the present position.

Therefore, what I would like to say is that so far as public undertakings are concerned proper budgeting and estimates must be made at the initial stage so that we will know exactly what we have, how much we have got to invest and what we shall get out of it Of course, unfortunately, so far as steel is concerned, we knew, if we take the world position into consideration—when we are building up an industrial society the power base and the steel base are the main considerations, and our power base compared to steel base was much advanced—so far as the steel base was concerned our position was very weak. If we compare the *per capita* consumption in other countries—I will cite a few instances for the sake of example—we are consuming *per capita* 22 lbs. ingots of steel as against 1,317 lbs. in U.S.A., 842 lbs. in U.K and 486 lbs. in U.S.S.R I am quoting these figures because, when we thought of planning we knew that this was the greatest deficiency in our industrial development and we ought to have thought it better to undertake at least one steel plant, as it was suggested in 1950 and 1951 If we had undertaken that, I am sure we would have saved a good amount of precious foreign exchange. That plant would have gone into production by 1954 or 1955

But we have missed that bus, and we have started planning for steel production with the second plan. In the process of planning inordinate delays have taken place. Because of these delays another factor has cropped up. The original prices at which we were going to contract for the foreign machinery have gone up. How much have they gone up? The original price of the machinery for Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur put together was estimated to be Rs. 193 crores. The position now is that we are paying Rs. 256

[Shri Khadilkar]

crores or so. Therefore, in this process of delay in negotiations we have lost a good deal.

Moreover, I fail to understand—from all the speeches you must have observed, Sir, that so far as Bhilai project is concerned things have gone very well—why the method by which a certain contractual arrangement was arrived at with the Soviet Government was not pursued with the help of an expert so far as the British consortium is concerned or the German manufacturers are concerned. If that had been done and a uniform policy had been followed while entering into such big contracts, I feel that we would have saved a good deal of money. In our country, when we are planning we must show to the people that our planning is not so expensive, much more expensive than the advanced countries at the initial stage, because it is very likely that it would undermine, as the budget is undermining, to some extent their faith in a public enterprise, which we should guard against.

In this report, it has been suggested that hence forward all the three plants are to function through one company I fail to understand why that company, as it has been stated here in this report, should have headquarters at Delhi. Of course, I find this tendency that every concern, whether it is oil or steel, would like to have headquarters at Delhi, round about the Secretariat I do not know the politics behind all this; but I deprecate this tendency I would like to urge that so far as steel production is concerned the head offices of the Hindustan Steel must be at a central place where it is a steel area altogether, and the people there who are in charge of production, management and other things must look after it as our Railway Board people are doing. If we compare the present investment and the future, our investment would be comparable with the Railway investment. I am told it is about Rs. 1,300 crores for the Railways,—of course, it is old costing but even then, with the Fourth Plan coming in the offing, it would be about Rs. 1,000 crores if not more for steel. Why should the directors be shifted? Why should not there be a Steel Production Board entrusted with the responsibility of production? Whatever might have happened in the early stages regarding contracting and designing,—mistakes have been committed, but let us benefit by the mistakes—the policies of Government ought to be translated while a Plan is being worked out. Unfortunately, the Secretariat people who executed the policies were entrusted with too much work without any expert assistance in this field.

Therefore, what I would like to suggest is that in future, in our development of this industry—and the future of India depends on the solid base of steel industry, as I said in the earlier part of my speech—the Minister should take note of all these drawbacks. The directors and Chairman should not be shifted; they should be permanent officials

At the same time, I would like to make one suggestion My hon. friend, Shri Asoka Mehta who has written a book has stated that about 50 persons in this country control all the financial world and by permutation and combination they become directors. What do I find in public enterprises? Those who were serving—they might be very good people—during the British regime and associated themselves with some concern and the *ex*-I.C.S. people, only they are to be trusted and no other man from any other walk of life, from public life is to be trusted with the responsibility of running a public concern. I think this is a bad policy. For future guidance, I would submit that if public enterprise is to succeed in creating confidence, is to succeed in the sense that it can show improvement,—as one or two of my friends said just now—by taking advantage of certain failures in the past that the steel plants should be thrown open to the private enterprise I am prepared to ignore them, but not ignore at the cost of public confidence. Therefore, I would like to spotlight it for the sake of improvement on their part.

What I am suggesting is this. So far as the management of all these plants are concerned, it must not be a sort of a monopoly, a preserve, of bureaucrats and the nominees of the private sector Today, the position is unfortunately this, namely, the public sector is being managed by the nominees of the private sector and the bureaucrats, and the obviously avowed objective of democratic planning in this country would be vitiated if the management and control of public enterprises is left to, or has become, the monopoly of people drawn from this part of our social life. This is a bad tendency and it must be guarded against.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member's time is up

Shri Khadikar: With one more observation, I shall finish. So far as steel is concerned, what I feel is that we have got three plants just coming up, and we are planning for the fourth plant Unless we are going to benefit by this experience, and unless we set up a designing machinery from the lack of which we suffer, and set up a civil engineering machinery and also set up our own consulting machinery, we should not, as is being thought out, think of the fourth plant, because it will land us again in difficulties and the same mistakes would be repeated during the execution of the fourth plant. We should benefit by the experience of China. You must have seen that recently they have erected small plants all over the country—small pig iron plants of the capacity of about 10,000 tons or so. I do not remember the exact figure. This has produced such a big result that if we would give thought to it we would benefit by China's experience. The initial cost is almost negligible, and the location of the industry is spread all over the country. That creates a certain amount of industrial consciousness, and provides opportunity to every part of the country. That scheme should be thought out for the future expansion. With these words, I close.

Shri S. M. Banerjee *rose—*

Mr. Chairman: I now call upon the hon. Minister. He will take about 45 minutes. Then four to five minutes must be given to the mover of the motion

Sardar Swaran Singh: I welcome this opportunity of deriving benefit from the observations made by the hon. Members of this House. You would recall that at the time of the last budget debate, fuller information was contained in the administration report of the Ministry, and before the discussion actually took place I read out a statement giving in detail the latest position as it then stood so that the hon. Members might be able to make their comments in the light of the latest developments and the progress of the work.

Although on the present occasion it is the report of Hindustan Steel for the year 1956-57, the hon. Members have been good enough not only to give comments about the report but have made certain general observations about the progress of the work, about the defects that they have noticed and about the suggestions that should be considered by those in charge of the Corporation for the improvement in work ' am grateful to all the hon. Members

So far as the importance of steel in our industrialization plans in the country is concerned, there is no difference of opinion, and I am glad to find unanimity of opinion amongst all sections of the House. In our plans for giving an industrial pattern to our economy, steel plays a very vital role and there has not been the slightest suggestion that we are either over-ambitious or that we have undertaken something which we should not have. If anything, the criticism has been from certain quarters that we did not

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start our planning and execution of those plans fo the creation of capacity for manufacturing steel in the country much earlier That only shows that the decision that had been taken while formulating the Second Five Year Plan for giving steel pride of place in the Plan was a good decision and the more we think of the future role that steel has to play, the more will everyone feel convinced that without pushing ahead our programme for the manufacture of steel we cannot really dream of the industrial pattern that we propose to evolve in the country

It has however, been pointed out that in the execution of these projects there have been slips and mistakes

Shri Nath Pai: Delays

Sardar Swaran Singh: I thought delay was a mistake

Shri Nath Pai Mistakes leads to delay

Sardar Swaran Singh: Delay leads to mistakes But my point is that hon Members have criticised the functioning of the Corporation, given thought to certain important aspects and have thrown up weaknesses in certain contexts about which special mention was made Also, in a general way they have made observations about the delays

Shri Rajendra Singh (Chapra) About the dubious deals also

Sardar Swaran Singh: Fortunately that adjective has not been used though Shri Nath Pai has been quite liberal with adjectives I would readily concede that in a project of this nature, which leads to production of a vital material like steel, delay is really wasteful Delay is bad in all projects, whether they are social or other projects, but delay in a project which gives economic results, which produces a material which is necessary for our economy is obviously a very serious matter I share the anxiety that has been expressed from various sections of the House that we should ensure that there are no delays, and if there are any delays, we should find means to check those delays and should be able to push ahead the work with the maximum possible speed

It has to be remembered that, in a project of this nature and magnitude when the estimates about our requirements have been going through various changes, it was not really before the end of the First Five Year Plan, the period when the Second Five Year Plan was being formulated that some realistic estimate of our requirements could be made I would like to recall Mr Chairman that there was mention of a steel plant of about half a million capacity in the First Five Year Plan When, however investigation started our requirements for steel were checked up and a great deal of thought was devoted to this aspect and soon the conclusion appeared to be inevitable that we were pitching our requirements at rather a very low level That had to be revised Then not only did the Government decide that the private sector plants, that is, the Jamshedpur and Burnpur plants should be permitted to expand to a considerable extent—Tatas being almost doubled and Indian Iron also making a substantial increase in production capacity, bringing its capacity to one million tons—but also that, besides the big expansion programme, we should have three steel plants in the public sector with one million capacity each

In the initial stages the Rourkela steel plant was the first about which concrete steps were taken to explore the possibilities of foreign collaboration and the supply of equipment and machinery I am making a mention of that, because the initial stages of Rourkela are really the subject matter of the report, which is the basis for the discussion before this House today So far as the negotiations for the two other steel plants, besides Rourkela were concerned, in the initial stages negotiations were conducted, mostly at the Government level, because at the other end there was the Government of U.S.S.R., who were negotiating and who were prepared to give technical collaboration and also credit facilities, and again on the side of U.K. a consortium had been formed and there was hope of getting credit facilities by an arrangement between the banking institutions, guaranteed by the Government of U.K. It was, therefore, considered advisable that at least in the initial stages, so far as the Bhilai and Durgapur negotiations were concerned, they should be conducted at Government level. It is for this reason that there is no mention in the present report about the other two steel plants. At that time the company was dealing only with the Rourkela project. But some time in April 1957, when most of the negotiations with the consortium from U.K., as also with the Government of U.S.S.R., had been almost finalised, it was decided that all these three steel plants should be placed under the care of a single company which would be controlling, managing and otherwise going ahead with the construction of the three steel plants. That briefly is the background of the steel corporation, as we find it today.

I am afraid that the two most enthusiastic speakers today, who initiated this discussion, saw very little on the positive side, and most of the time they were worried about one or two contracts, about which I will briefly mention at a little later stage

Shri Morarka: We have not said anything about the positive side, because there was no time. .

Sardar Swaran Singh: Shri Morarka has thought somehow in his wisdom that the negative side is most important and that the positive side should wait. Opinions can differ and I thought that perhaps the positive side is even more important than negative criticism. I am not complaining in any way and I am glad that Shri Morarka sees the force of what I am trying to point out. That the picture that was attempted to be painted by picking out a couple of contracts which they thought did not come up to strict scrutiny was not correct. They wanted to create an impression as if there is complete chaos and that nothing is happening. I cannot believe that these two gentlemen, with their experience of public matters,—I presume, they must have visited these steel plants also, and I am sure they saw other good positive features in these projects also, as now explained by Shri Morarka—which they could not put forward before the House for want of time

Shri Nath Pai: Because we knew that you would be boosting all that. What the country needs is the drawback in it. For one thing, you and the Government perpetually boast of your achievement. Why should we undertake a duty which you have voluntarily taken upon yourself?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not grudge that. I hope that he should not grudge me very objectively mentioning what has been done

Shri Nath Pai: I also put it objectively

Sardar Swaran Singh: I can claim that I have not boasted much; nor have I any intention of doing it even today. I am only trying to put forward facts ....

An Hon. Member: Boost or boast?

Sardar Swaran Singh: ....simple facts as it obtains there today on the ground. Those who have visited this place during the last one year or so have not remained unconvinced and unimpressed by the magnitude of the work, by the manner in which technicians both Indian and foreign are working in co-operation and going ahead with the construction of the plants which are so essential for our economy.

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On the constructive side, I am sure that the House will keenly like to know the latest position. I would like to very briefly mention what is happening there today, and what is the stage at which we find ourselves. The construction of these three mammoth steel plants, all at the same time, has been an exciting adventure. The House knows that even in more advanced countries such an effort has hardly been attempted We have had to build not only the plants, but practically everything else Indeed, one might say that we are changing the very way of life in these regions Conscious, as I am of the difficulties and shortcomings, the House will agree with me that faced with this task of this magnitude, we have not done too badly We are now approaching the peak period of construction Already there are 45,000 men at work in Rourkela, 60,000 men in Bhilai and over 25,000 men in Durgapur In Bhilai and Rourkela, over two-thirds of the equipment is already at the site. The first battery of coke ovens has been heated in Rourkela and Bhilai and the actual production of coke will start in December I also expect that by the end of December the physical erection of the first blast furnace and the other departments necessary to produce iron will be practically completed both in Rourkela and in Bhilai This does not mean that production can start the next day The blast furnace, the coke ovens, the power plant, the systems for blending and conveying ore, coal and other raw materials the supply and circulation of water, gas and power—all these form an intricate complex The functioning of each part has to be meticulously tested in relation to the rest and the whole complex has, so to say, to be correctly tuned up This is extremely important because once the blast furnace is started, it has to be kept in continuous production day and night. Any interruption, however petty the cause, might well mean stoppage for weeks. I cannot, therefore, say when exactly we can start making iron But that day is not far off This, my friends will appreciate, is not much of boasting, but just a factual presentation of the facts

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad) That is why it should have been given in the report

Sardar Swaran Singh: I wish I could be a prophet and give what is happening today in a report which relates to the period 1956-57

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Something about that should have been mentioned

Sardar Swaran Singh: I would very much welcome it if that indulgence could be granted to me that while I am presenting the report relating to the period 1956-57 I could project myself into the future and say what would be the position on 25th November, 1958

Shri Braj Raj Singh: But something could be given about that period at least Nothing has been given about the period to which the report relates

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think my hon friend is feeling hurt because I have brought his attention to the fact of the lapse of time, but I had no intention of doing that

I was submitting that this is the present stage of the work, and this gives some idea of the activity that is going on in these projects

The commissioning of the blast furnace is only the beginning In the course of the next two years—now I am trying to project myself into the future—the various steel-making and rolling units will be commissioned in sequence

An Hon. Member: Are you a prophet?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Now he is becoming one.

Sardar Swaran Singh: But I am only profiting by your prophecies.

I expect that there will be a substantial production and sale of steel before the end of the Plan period.

I would also like to add with your permission that the House should not forget that those who operate the plants will consist mainly of young people who have been recently trained. The number of people with mature experience of steel production will be relatively few and will be supplemented by a leavening of foreign personnel for a time. Tuning up for production, not to mention the attainment of full production, will therefore be an uphill task; it would be as great an effort as the construction of the plant itself.

Another point had been mentioned about the lack of training facilities, and speakers more than one had drawn attention to that aspect. This matter of finding suitable technical personnel to man modern steel plants of the nature that are being put up at these three places, I admit, was not an easy task, but I do submit that the matter had received very careful attention both in the matter of selection of the personnel for training as also in the matter of making adequate arrangements for getting them the right type of training. We had selected in hundreds young engineers with electrical, metallurgical, mechanical engineering and other qualifications. We have made arrangement to train them in batches in a preliminary way first inside the country so that they might get some idea of the type of work which they were going to learn when they went abroad, and then we have arranged to train these young engineers in almost all the important countries of the world. In this connection I would like really to express my thanks and appreciation to the foreign Governments and others concerned who have been good enough to afford these training facilities.

We have sent these trainees in hundreds to the Soviet Union. We have also sent our trainees in hundreds to the USA, and there are training facilities in the U.K., in Canada, in West Germany and in Australia. We are also exploring the possibility of training facilities in other countries.

Besides this, a number of engineering firms and our own private sector steel plants and also the Government steel works at Bhadravati, have been good enough to extended facilities for training of other personnel who might be called 'operatives' at various levels. The supervisor engineers with their technical know-how and experience and training will provide the hard core, but the brunt of the work will have to be carried on by the trained personnel and in this respect also we have attempted to avail of opportunities which are available inside the country; we have also sent such trainees abroad in fairly large numbers.

Shri Nath Pai: Will they be enough to meet our requirements? That is the point. Is it not a fact that experts in this country do feel and do entertain fears that between 300 to 400 technicians of a very high calibre will be required after the completion of the plants, to run them, that is, non-Indian technicians? What the hon. Minister has said is true, but is that enough to meet the requirements?

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is the objective, that our requirements should be met. It is true that in the initial stages, we shall not be able to find the right type of trained individuals and technicians to man these various sections of the plant at various levels, particularly, at the higher levels

So far as recruitment of suitable Indians for manning these plants at the higher levels is concerned, we could draw upon what is available in the country; in that respect also, although the Tatas and the Indian Irons have their own expansion programme, and they cannot easily spare technical people at higher level, we

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evolved a method under which, by mutual consultation, we have been able to secure even at higher levels a fairly large number of technical personnel and technical experts. It is true that their number is not large enough, but that is something which is inherent in the situation If they are not available, it is not because we have not made an effort to find them, but because they are just not there

During the interval, till our own boys come up and have developed enough of confidence and experience to undertake responsibility at higher levels, we shall have to depend upon *suitable technicians from abroad* And we should not at all be ashamed of having an arrangement of that type Even the existing steel plants in our own country had for decades together foreign experts at higher levels who provided the hard core for the technical operation of the plants

The question posed by the hon Member made it appear that we are unaware of the shortfall so far as our Indian hands are concerned, and that it has suddenly dawned upon us as something which was not known before. That, I am afraid, is not a correct appreciation We knew from the very beginning that we would require foreign technicians at higher levels in the initial stages. They will not only be there in position to run the plant but they will also be providing the necessary training to our younger people who could, after they get experience, take up higher responsibilities

We are making arrangements with regard to these experts from abroad, and we have already succeeded to a certain extent, and our effort is continuing. I am not at all pressimistic in this respect, and I do not anticipate any real difficulty in the matter of finding the experts of the right type to man these steel plants at the time when they are ready for operation

The other important point which has been the subject-matter of comment from various sections of the House is the question of estimates. There is one preliminary observation that I have to make, before I give certain figures. So far as figures are concerned, I have been trying to keep the House informed fully of the latest position as it has obtained from time to time Questions have been asked on the floor of the House, and in reply to those questions I have been giving the information with regard to the estimates of the cost of the plant and the other ancillary things

It is of importance to note that except in a few marginal cases, the comment has been somewhat critical on the ground that while putting forward the first estimates a large number of things had been omitted. I would respectfully submit that that would not be a fair criticism At the time when any particular estimate was given, it was made clear in our anxiety to keep the House fully informed that with regard to those particular matters about which some estimate was available, these were the figures, and there were other items about which estimates could not be given; and if later on, the figure swelled on that score, if the cost of those other items were added to them, that certainly could not be taken as a point of grievance against the Government, because as and when those figures with regard to any particular part were available, they were given and it was also explained from time to time that a particular figure given at any particular moment did not include certain other items. The figures with regard to those items had been added from time to time, when the information was available

It is true that even with regard to certain parts of the plant proper, namely, the items that were included in those figures that were given at any particular time, changes have taken place, sometimes on account of change of design, sometimes due to change by way of addition of something else or improvement of design, and in a number of ways the estimate has been subject to revision. But I would like to mention that the estimates that have been given even at the earliest stage by me after I took charge of this—and that happened about a year and a half ago—had not been the subject of any substantial change from the time that I gave those figures from the time of the budget discussions in 1957. I have failed to notice any point made by any hon. Member to suggest that there has been of late any recent additions or big changes in the figures that had been given from time to time.

Shri Nath Pai: We did mention the figures. Take the rolling mill. He is trying to mislead the House. I mentioned these and other Members also mentioned rise in specific cases. A rise from Rs. 48 crores to Rs. 72 crores—is it something minor? A rise from Rs. 13 crores to Rs. 19 crores in 'general services' in the case of Rourkela—is it a negligible change? Has the House been taken into confidence even at this late stage? He has not given an explanation for that.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am afraid my hon. friend is a little too impatient. He says that the price of the rolling mill has substantially increased. That was given by me at the earliest time and there has not been any substantial change whatsoever. That is all I am trying to submit. At the earlier stage, when it was evolved, it did undergo a certain number of changes and as a result of those changes and as a consequence of other factors also, including world prices and the like, we should be prepared really to face a situation where the estimates cannot be as firm as perhaps the hon. Member would like them to be or as firm as I would like them to be. But we should be realistic enough to take these various factors into account and not put a sort of distorted version before the country. It will be unfair to create an impression as if the whole thing has proceeded in an absolutely unmethodical way and that figures had been added on at will from time to time.

I would like even now to give the picture so that there may not be any mistake on that score. These figures have been given from time to time. But I think it would be good if I were to repeat them. This is nothing but summarising what I have said from time to time either in reply to questions or at the time of the various discussions.

Yesterday in answer to a question I made a full statement of the foreign exchange costs and the payments made so far. The figures I gave include foreign exchange costs not only of the plants proper but of the ancillaries. On several previous occasions I had given information about the total costs also. I will only recall that the cost of the steel plants proper will be Rs. 170 crores for Rourkela, Rs. 131 crores for Bhilai and Rs. 138 crores for Durgapur. The total cost of other ancillaries like the township, iron ore mines, lime, stone quarries, development of sources of water and power supply up to the perimeter of the plants, customs duty etc. will be about Rs. 120 crores, as I mentioned in answer to a question during the last session. I am glad to say that there is every reason to believe that there will be no significant change from these estimates of the costs of the plants and the ancillaries. The bulk of this expenditure will be incurred before the close of the Plan period although there will be some overflow.

Then, again, there is another matter which I would like the House to bear with me if I were to mention it. If we analyse all the various points that have been put forward by the hon. Members on this question of estimates, they come down to this, that in the initial estimates our consultants were not vigilant enough and they were not expert enough and they did not give

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enough of thought and, therefore, they gave a picture which later on was found to be very much an under-estimate and we are confronted, from time to time, with additional items. That is the gravemen of the charge so far as this aspect is concerned.

There is a historical background with regard to the three steel plants. With regard to Rourkela, it was really the consultants' estimate. One of the points which the consultants have not failed to point out again and again is that there was an element of studied under-estimation because, when we were going out for tenders, if they were to put the estimates on the cautious side, that would have become, more or less the base for those who quote. Therefore, it was not bad from a practical angle that they were not liberal in framing their estimates. Otherwise, the country would have lost and the quotations would have been somewhat higher.

Shri Panigrahi: Are not the consultants and the suppliers the same in Rourkela?

Sardar Swaran Singh: In regard to Bhilai, it was more or less the supplier's quotation as a result of negotiations. There have been increases in Rourkela, in Bhilai and in Durgapur..

Shri Panigrahi: In Rourkela, I think, the consultants and the suppliers are the same.

Sardar Swaran Singh: They might be the same in one or two things; but they are not the same in all things. There are as many as 24 or 25 suppliers who are supplying different parts of the plant and all those 24 or 25 firms are not the consultants.

I would say in a general manner because I have not got the time really to go into the details of the various points, that with regard to any supply contract that the Hindustan Steel or the Government decided to place with any of the firms who had any connection with the consultants, then the consultants definitely dissociated themselves from the stage of the examination of those quotations so that this charge which has been levelled that the same firms were the suppliers as well as the consultants to scrutinise those quotations, I am afraid, is based upon some mis-conception that is not borne out by facts at all. Every care has taken that the role of scrutiniser was not assumed by the supplier whether it was in one or the other section of the plant

Shri Morarka: May I request the hon. Minister to give the dates so far as the Hochtief association is concerned; when he was associated and when the tender was awarded to him.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I do not want to enter into these details. I have been in correspondence with my hon. friend and I have been trying to give him whatever information he wanted. I will be prepared to give whatever other information he wants but let me first complete the broad points which were urged rather than go into details of a minor nature, about this or that contract

Broadly two contracts have been criticised both by Shri Nath Pai and Shri Morarka. I am happy that at least on one matter they appear to be agreeing though they belong to different parts of the House One is the award of the civil works contract to Hochtief-Gammon and the other the award of a contract to a firm of civil engineers—Dugals. Both these matters have also been, I think, before the Estimates Committee, of which, if my memory helps me, Shri Nath Pai is a Member

Shri Nath Pai: Sir, he is promoting me to the august bodies to which I have not the honour to belong and with it goes the implication that I am abusing information which I come across as a Member of the Committee

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is far from me to suggest that the hon. Member is misusing the information that might be there. I am sorry if I have created that impression. What I was saying was that these two contracts have been before the Estimates Committee and the Ministry and the Hindustan Steel Company had also supplied considerable information about these. But as questions have been put on the floor of this House, it will be good if I were to make a brief statement with regard to these contracts so that the House might judge as to whether there was anything fishy about them and whether they were proper contracts

A reference has been made in the course of discussions to Hochtief-Gammon contract. It is seldom realised that this contract for the civil engineering work of the rolling mills is the largest single item of work As the work was massive, complicated and required close co-ordination with structural erection, it was necessary to have a contractor who had the resources and the know-how. For similar work in Bhilai in the previous year, open tenders had failed. Even so, tenders were invited from firms on the approved list. Tenderers were asked to quote for either the whole work or part. Two offers for the entire work were received. Of these, the first one was from a firm which did have the necessary equipment and resources; the second was from a firm which was already engaged in some work at Durgapur and was barely maintaining schedule. As the entire work had to be done together and within the time schedule, the only alternative was to consider the offers of the two firms who had shown interest in doing the work on a target-price basis. Of these the first was an English firm whose price, besides being high, involved a much larger cost in foreign exchange. The second, Hochtief-Gammon—a collaboration between a German and an India firm—was, therefore, awarded the contract by negotiation on a target price basis. This was the only basis available. The total target price is Rs. 77·79 million and consists of costs of material and labour (Rs. 50·64 million), supervision and equipment (Rs. 15·65 million—this includes the cost of hire of equipment) and fixed overheads and fee (Rs. 11·5 million). The target price is subject to adjustment for variation in rates or quantities and the contract contains a bonus clause if the actual cost is kept below the target. The penalty for exceeding the target is one third of the excess. In the case of either bonus or penalty, the maximum is Rs. 15·5 lakhs.

It has often been said that the hire charges for machinery included in this contract are excessive. It was actually mentioned by Shri Morarka in his inimitable and eloquent manner. The work required a large amount of mechanical equipment which the Hindustan Steel did not have. The Company could have either brought them, which would have meant foreign exchange but what is more important—delay—or hired them. They chose the latter alternative because Hochtief-Gammon had some equipment already in India .(*Interruptions*)

Shri Nath Pai: Why did you not buy them without hiring? You have paid rent which is very high.

Sardar Swaran Singh: Of the two alternatives, those who were in charge of this work thought that this alternative was better. Opinions may differ. Besides, construction equipment of this type is generally a part of a civil engineering firm's tools of the trade. The firm could have included, in the rates, an element towards the charges for the use of the equipment in their possession. And,- this is important—in this contract, because of a target price, the element has been shown separately, so that the targets could be assessed is a realistic manner later on.

Sir, it is somewhat embarrassing to defend individual contractors and the like. Therefore, I have tried to put forward objectively the circumstances as they obtained, and in the light of our experience we will see as to whether the performance was according to

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expectation, according to the terms of the contract. The clauses can then be examined to ensure, in the light of the implementation and experience, whether there was a great mistake or whether it was all fair.

I would very strongly urge that it would be really wrong to create an impression of that type purely on theoretical and imaginary grounds, and merely pick up a particular clause and point out this is bad or that is bad. I can't really vouchsafe with regard to the correctness or the wisdom of each clause, but we have to place ourselves in a position when these contracts were negotiated, see the conditions under which they were negotiated. We should also appreciate the pressure for time There have been, rightly, an insistence that there should not be any delay In the context of that could the other process have been gone through? That is something which we have to appreciate. Those who had to exercise judgment have exercised their judgment, and the fact is there. If we are not satisfied with that we can sav that the judgment was wrong; but to import a tilt of a type as if everything is wrong, I would submit, is not fair.

Again, Sir, something has been said about the wages that have been paid to carpenters and the like Shri Bharucha compared the salaries of Members, of Parliament .

An Hon. Member: Ministers

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am in the same category. I think that in this matter, whether they are carpenters from West Germany who are not ordinary carpenters—there are enough of carpenters in the country and I claim that carpenters from the part of the country to which I belong are particularly good, and there are others also....

Shri Nath Pai: How did you forget them when you engaged carpenters from West Germany?

Sardar Swaran Singh: You should give me credit for that. Knowing that our carpenters are good, still these people had to be imported. There cannot be any want on reason, there must be some good reason for it. The reason was, that in the shuttering that was necessary for, the construction of very complicated types of reinforcement woodwork was really of a complicated character. Unless people had enough experience those complicated sections could not be fitted in that sort of mould into which cement was to be poured. It was for this reason that specialised type of technicians had to be imported from abroad. Whether they are welders from the Soviet Union or workers from West Germany or Japan or any other country when they are to construct or to run the plant we have to get them When we have to get specialised technicians, carpenters and the like from West Germany, we should not hesitate to get the benefit of their experience and we should not really judge even the emoluments that we pay in relation to our own standards of payment of wages. It is a fact, which I think is extremely stalemate for me to mention, that the wage structure elsewhere is entirely different. Normally, any foreigner who comes here costs us a minimum of Rs. 3000. I have no hesitation in saying that. Whether he is a Soviet individual or a West German or a United Kingdom man, from whatever country he comes, we have to pay him very highly. Workers there get wages which is out of all proportion to the wages that obtain in this country. Besides, we have to pay even more to persuade a settled worker to go out of his country, for a short assignment, thousands of miles away.

17 hrs.

Therefore, when we have to take advantage of the know how of others.

I think it is somewhat unfair that we should criticise those people whom we invite and whom we pay to get work done. It is unfair to ridicule and create an impression by comparing the expenditure that we incure with the expenditure incurred elsewhere, on the basis of our wage scale or the wage structure. That will be very unfair criticism, and I would like to acknowledge really the assistance that is forthcoming, whether the assistance is in the form of technical know how or otherwise by providing those technical hands to us whom we pay, and who put in a fairly hard work here in the construction. To criticize them in the way in which it has been done perhaps would not be fair.

If you would be indulgent, I would mention one contract which has been left. If the House is interested in it, I would read a few lines which I think would be better for the House to know. Otherwise, the picture would remain incomplete. The contract for the civil engineering work for the blast furnace was awarded to Messrs Dugal & Co., as their's was the lowest quotation. They were to work under the supervision of the foreign blast furnace supplier who was responsible for the preparation of designs and supervision of the civil engineering work. The work did not proceed according to the time schedule.

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): A point of order. Most of us much concerned with the subject were not allowed to speak by the Chair. If the time is extended for this motion, it would be more than two and a half hours then. Now, it is past 5 O'clok and past two and a half hours prescribled for the motion. The discussion must be closed.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am entirely in the hands of the House.

Shri Mahanty: Unless the rule is suspended, I believe we cannot speak even for a minute beyond 5 O'clock.

Mr. Chairman: When there is such an important debate and when hon. Members are anxious to know the position, and when we are exceeding the time by about five or ten minutes, only it may not be wrong. Even when such important debates took place and when some hon. Members were anxious to speak, they could not be allowed to speak. So, I think the hon. Member will not be so particular about the time when a serious matter is being discussed.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I am grateful to you, Sir. I would not take a long time.

The main reason for the slow progress was the contractor's inexperience in specialized work of this type, inadequacy of equipment and lack of technical personnel. By the middle of 1957, the contractor had fallen behind schedule; and even providing for some improvement and acceleration in the progress of the work as more equipment arrived at site, it was felt that the contractors would be behind schedule by more than six months. The choice before the company was either to find another contractor or to reinforce Messrs Dugal & Co. Having regard to the necessity of keeping as closely as possible to the schedule, the Directors of Hindustan Steel Private Ltd., decided that the question of taking away the work from Messrs Dugal & Co. and entrusting it to some other contractor with more experience and resources should be examined. This was done, but no Indian contractor who could do the work within the stipulated time was available. A foreign firm, if obtainable, would have taken time to organise the work, and transport equipment and personnel to the site; it was also felt that the cost would have been disproportionately high. Hindustan Steel Private Ltd., had, therefore, no alternative but to reinforce Messrs Dugal and to get the firm to collaborate with a foreign firm who could provide the necessary knowhow, supervisory and other technical personnel.

The company agreed to the employment of 36 foremen and specialized carpenters to be sent from Germany

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

by GHH for a period of six to twelve months. I need not give the details of the terms. The terms are similar to those for other erection personnel. The foremen and carpenters arrived in the country on various dates beginning from December, 1957 to February, 1958. It may be pointed out that the specialized carpenters were to guide nearly 600 Indian carpenters and it cannot be said that the number of foreign personnel was in anyway large.

In addition to the expenditure on account of these foreign technicians, the company had to bear the extra expenditure on account of timber for shuttering and to pay a ways and means advance. The extra expenditure for shuttering was due to the contractor under-estimating the cost originally. The ways and means advance is interest-bearing.

I have attempted to put forward objectively the various points that have been referred to by the hon. Members. I am fully aware that I have not been able to cover all the points, although I would have very much liked to. But I have tried to present a picture so that the country may not get a feeling that there is anything wrong with the steel plants The work is going ahead. The work is going ahead with a great degree of enthusiasm and I am sure all these steel plants will go into production with some minor alterations to the time-table which are inevitable in a colossal work of this nature. With all their experience, even the Tatas ultimately found that in their expansion programme they were behind their estimated schedule by about six months. So, a delay of a couple of months or three months in this big work is something which the House should be indulgent enough to bear with.

Shri Morarka: Who would pay these Rs. 21 lakhs of rupees to the carpenters—Duggal or the Hindustan Steel (Private) Limited?

Shri Nath Pai: Of course, the Hindustan Steel.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I would like to have the traditional notice to answer this question.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Chairman: There is no time for questions.

17.6 hrs.

Shri Nath Pai: I must confess that I was very disappointed with the reply. It does not look very charitable or gallant or good manners to say that I was disappointed by the speech that the hon. Minister has delivered. Let us not introduce other motives. I had never cast any aspersions; I had shown certain doubts and we wanted the doubts to be clarified But his speech was an essay in the art of ambiguities dressed in delightful ethereal vagueness.

On no single point did he make a categorical reply and innumerable were the points raised by us. He subjected us to a lecture about the importance of steel, as if we do not know it and as if there was disagreement about it. Take the simple question of delay. What disturbed me most was his self-complacence. We thought that if we brought to his notice all these weaknesses, he would have shaken himself out of his self-complacence and once for all assured us that the matters will be righted up. As I said in my earlier remarks, all that he has been doing is to give a white-wash and to go on shielding and conniving. This is most disturbing. I have my regard for him, but it is not a question of my going and listening to some good advice to be patient, which he was all the while liberally giving.

Take this question of delay. Is this a matter to be so self-complacent? He says, it is a little delay. Here is the opinion not of me, but this is the World Bank's opinion, people who know what the job is and how it has got to be executed. In their document called *The Current Economic Position and Prospects in India*, this is what they say:

> "Full production from all these plants is supposed to be achieved sometime in 1961-62."

The original target date for the 1st two plants was the end of 1959, but now it is 1961-62. It will probably not be achieved in fact until 1963 at the earliest. Is this a little delay, when we know that every day it is going to cost us Rs. 12½ lakhs?

I would like to ask the hon. Minister one or two pertinent questions to which he should have answered, instead of saying we are going into minor details.

Mr. Chairman: There is no time for putting questions and getting replies. If there is no time for a reply, it is useless to put a question. He can put questions in the ordinary way as questions are put. Members are already impatient and they say we have already exceeded the time. I cannot allow further questions.

Shri Nath Pai: There is a mistake. I was to wind up the debate. The form of winding up is left to me. Pardon me for saying so; you are a veteran in the procedural law, but I can wind up my concluding remarks by asking any number of questions instead of making a peroration, as he has done.

Mr. Chairman: The House may get the impression that questions are put, but there is no reply. Otherwise, this way of putting questions is not questionable at all. We want that a reply may be given to the questions. But there is no time now to enable the hon. Minister to reply.

Shri Nath Pai: I am grateful to you, Sir. I do not expect a reply.

The point I was making was that the hon. Minister has failed in giving satisfaction in regard to certain legitimate doubts which we have raised and therefore, our demand that this House goes thoroughly into all the charges is justified. That was the point I was driving. He never replied to the points. He tried to justify the contract being given to Dugal and others. He had not a word to say about what was read out about the record of this firm. Are the reports of the Public Account Committees from the different States simply to be ignored, when we deal with such matters? Can it be done? And at what cost? Just now a question was asked: who is to pay the penalty? We make a mistake, and the nation has to pay for it. If Uddham Singh Dugal, as he agrees, was found incompetent by the Public Accounts Committee of Punjab, from which the hon. Minister hales, what was the virtue in giving them a contract for a still bigger venture? That is one thing. Secondly, Krup-Demag was against giving this contract to them because, as he just now read from . note, they lack the equipment and experience for that. Now for all these follies of Uddham Singh Dugal we have incurred a loss of Rs. 21 lakhs. Would it not be ordinary justice, ordinary care for public interest that they should be compelled to pay the loss? Has it been done? No.

I would like to say another thing. He has been saying that these things were overlooked and that there has been an excess in the increase of the estimates. That is not a fair statement. That is not an honest admission. Mistakes can be made. But let us be bold enough to try to give the reasons for the mistakes. They may be *bona fide* or may not be. If I cast an aspersion or doubt something wrong, you cannot white-wash it by saying: you are talking vaguely. Satisfy me and give me the facts. Is this a negligible increase, from 48 to 72? He has never given any reply.

And the most important thing is that he did not even refer to clause 14—sub-clause (1) being connected

[**Shri Nath Pai**]

with clause 5. There are Rs. 15 crores involved in this, not a small sum, and he said: "Don't give the nation the wrong impression....

Sardar Swaran Singh: Because I had made a detailed statement in reply to a question. If he wants, I have got a copy with me.

Shri Nath Pai: I have got it here.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister must understand that I am not allowing any replies to be made. The object of the hon. Member in putting questions is not to elicit replies. He is only making an observation on the general reply of the Hon. Minister. This is only a method of reply, as he himself has been saying. So, there is no occasion for a reply to a reply.

Shri Nath Pai: In the sense that he did not reply, though there was enough occasion. He had full 15 minutes more than my 20 minutes. He has simply just not given conviction to any of the major points. He has just given me some kind of sermon. As an elderly person and the leader of the country, I recognize his right to give some sermons that one should not be impatient. But when it comes to a basic thing which touches our national life, I want no sermon but facts which will remove my doubts.

I know that he has made a reply in answer to a question. But that reply is not going to rescue him. If you want, I can reproduce that reply. He just read a part of the clause. You just give Rs. 15 crores for supervision and control. If one clause forbids giving any consideration for drawings how do you show under the main clause the justification for paying Rs. 15 crores. You say that you will be paying Rs. 15 crores for drawings. As an eminent lawyer you can appreciate the position that there is a previous clause which prohibits by saying that for drawings no payment shall be made, and under this clause you say that payments shall be made for the drawings. No satisfactory explanation has been given.

I shall conclude by one remark only Is it not a fact that this board of the Hindustan Steel Private Limited has almost abdicated its duties; that it has given over its duties in a manner which we fail to understand? They have entrusted the work to a small Sub-Committee, which often consists of two persons, the Secretary of his Ministry and one more member who might be happening to be at Delhi. It will be far from my idea to attack people who cannot defend themselves. It is wrong and it is not to be done and we will refrain from doing it. But it is a fact that a committee consisting of only two members meet from time to time and it is this Committee that has been administering this mammoth enterprise, this giant enterprise. There is no reply to all this and many other things. I know you are impatient, and I have finished my seven minutes. But may I ask what happens to our charge that you were so so and indifferent to public money, that instead of straightaway going and doing what an ordinary man with elementary knowledge of business will do—I am no expert in business and I do not know the business tactics—you do the things which you have done? But I know this much that if the fees which I am paying for something is higher than the price which I get then it is a simple decision to take. It does not require a consultant, for whom we have to pay Rs. 2 crores. The fact remains that for the machinery costing Rs. 60 lakhs we paid a rate of Rs. 75 lakhs. Now we have raised all these points about the water issue, about the quary bungling, as the quary is not mechanised we have to go instead of Tardly to Gova, a distance of 140 miles. This simple folly is going to cost the nation Rs. 68 lakhs of additional payment and congestion on our railways. This is a chapter, an essay, a list, a catalogue of follies, of incompetence and the only reply is, we were in a hurry.

we were impatient to do it. I, once again, say this. In the steel factory one finds Augean stables full of all kinds of hotch-potch and something needs to be dug out so that, perhaps, at the bottom there may be some nuggets of steel which we very badly need. I repeat, he has failed in satisfying the House and therefore the House should be given a chance of going thoroughly into this whole matter, of course, advised by experts.

Mr. Chairman: The House stands adjourned to 11 o'clock on the 27th.

17.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday the 27th November, 1958.

[*Tuesday, the 25th November*, 1958]

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391.	Companies in Orissa	1414
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393.	Electrification of U.P. .	1415-16
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439.	Industries in Punjab	1439
440.	Handicrafts	1439-40
441.	Village Housing Projects Scheme	1440-41

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT . . . . . 1441—44

The Speaker postponed till the 27th November, 1958 his decision on the admissibility of an adjournment motion given notice of by Shri Braj Raj Singh regarding the reported murder of a lady passenger on the night of 23rd November, 1958, in a train proceeding from Hoshiarpur.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 1444-45

The following papers were laid on the Table :—

1. A copy of the Fifth Evaluation Report on working of Community Development and N.E.S. Blocks.
2. A copy of the Cinematograph (Censorship) Rules, 1958 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 945 dated the 11th October, 1958 under sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952.
3. A copy of Notification No. S.O. 2311 dated the 8th November, 1958 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 making certain further

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*contd.*

COLUMNS

amendment to the Cotton Textiles (Production by Handloom) Control Order, 1956.

4. A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. No. 1001 dated the 25th October, 1958 under sub-section (3) of Section 48 of the Coffee Act, 1942 making certain further amendments to the Coffee Rules, 1955.
5. A copy of the statement correcting reply given on the 27th August, 1958 to a supplementary by Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri on Starred Question No 581 regarding Jute Industry
6. A copy of the statement regarding the ratification by India of the I.L.O Convention No 88 adopted in 1948 concerning the Organisation of the Employment Service.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED 1445

Thirtieth Report was Presented

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE 1445—48

Shri N R Munisamy called the attention of the Prime Minister to the Problem of Stateless persons of Indian origin in Ceylon.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon) made a statement in regard thereto.

BILL UNDER CONSIDERATION 14

Further discussion on the motion to consider the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, as reported by the Joint Committee continued The discussion was not concluded

DISCUSSION RE HINDUSTAN STEEL PRIVATE LIMITED 151

Shri Nath Pai raised a discussion on the Annual Report of the Hindustan Steel Private Limited The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh) replied to the debate and the discussion was concluded

AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 1958—

Further discussion on the motion of Privilege moved by Shri M R Masani on the 27th September, 1956 and amendment thereto and further discussion on the motion to consider the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, as reported by the Joint Committee